# EXHIBIT A



Certified Public Accountant

<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first\_name>> <<middle\_name>> <<last\_name>> <<suffix>> <<address\_1>> <<address\_2>> <<city>>, <<state\_province>> <<postal\_code>> <<country >>

#### Dear <<first\_name>> <<middle\_name>> <<last\_name>> <<suffix>>,

This correspondence is meant to inform you of an incident which may have exposed your personal information, including your name, address, financial information and Social Security number. We take the security of your personal information seriously and want to provide you with information and resources you can use to help protect your data. This letter contains information about the incident and resources we are making available to you.

## What happened?

On March 17, 2020, we discovered that certain tax returns were e-filed by an unauthorized party not affiliated with our Firm. To our knowledge, your tax return was not a part of the fraudulent filings, but there is a possibility that the third party gained access to your name, address, financial information, and Social Security number while in our environment.

## What Information Was Involved?

The personal information involved may have included your name, gender, date of birth, telephone number(s), address, social security number, all employment (W-2) information, 1099 information, as well as direct deposit bank account information, including account number and routing information (if provided to us). Further information may involve supporting documentation such as brokerage statements and other types of specific documents that you may have provided us.

# The security and privacy of your information has always been a top priority for our firm. I have had a close business relationship with most of my clients for many years. I have no words to express how sorry I am about what has happened here. It is my hope that I can offer you whatever assistance you need.

Following this incident, we immediately engaged a third-party to conduct a forensic investigation into this incident. This investigation is currently ongoing. Although the forensic investigation has not yet determined the scope of the data potentially compromised, we have chosen to notify you now of this incident out of an abundance of caution and will provide you with resources to help protect your personal data.

## What We Have Done So Far:

Based on the diligent investigative work of both our local IT consultant and that of an IT firm specializing in forensic data analysis, we have made internal software system management changes. All network firewalls, computers and security protections are confirmed to be properly functioning. Both IT firms will continue working together with us to prevent a future data security incident.

We are also working with the following appropriate agencies on your behalf. The IRS and Idaho State Tax Commission (ISTC) have been made aware of the fraudulent filings. Further, your social security number has been noted for potential fraud filings with the IRS and ISTC. We are working with these agencies to assist in their investigation and to interrupt the activities of the cyber intruder(s). We have also filed a report with the FBI's online Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

Further, to help relieve concerns and restore confidence following this incident, we have secured the services of Kroll Inc. to provide identity monitoring services to you at no cost for one year. Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping people who have sustained an unintentional exposure of confidential data. Your identity monitoring services include Credit Monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit https://[IDMonitoringURL] to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services. You have until [Date] to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Member ID>>

# What you can do.

Please review the enclosed "Additional Resources" section included with this letter. This section describes additional steps you can take to help protect yourself, including recommendations by the Federal Trade Commission regarding identity theft protection and details on how to place a fraud alert or a security freeze on your credit file.

# For more information.

If you any have questions pertaining to this incident or credit monitoring, please call <u>1-???-????</u>, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Central Time. Please have your membership number ready.

Safeguarding your information is important to us. We trust that the services we are offering to you demonstrate our continued commitment to your security and satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Jim Geddings, CPA Jim Geddings, CPA PLLC

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

# Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting agencies is:

**Equifax**, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111 **Experian**, PO Box 2104, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742 **TransUnion**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19022, www.transunion.com, 1-800-888-4213

**Free Credit Report.** It is recommended that you remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies.

To order your annual free credit report please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228.

You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") website at www.consumer.ftc.gov) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

For Colorado, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and Vermont residents: You may obtain one or more (depending on the state) additional copies of your credit report, free of charge. You must contact each of the credit reporting agencies directly to obtain such additional report(s).

**Fraud Alert.** You may place a fraud alert in your file by calling one of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies above. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit.

Security Freeze. You have the ability to place a security freeze on your credit report.

A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may be able to use an online process, an automated telephone line, or a written request to any of the three credit reporting agencies listed above. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue.

**Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General Offices.** If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your home state. You may also contact these agencies for information on how to prevent or avoid identity theft.

You may contact the **Federal Trade Commission**, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).

**For Maryland residents:** You may contact the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us, 1-888-743-0023.

**For North Carolina residents:** You may contact the North Carolina Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov, 1-877-566-7226.

# Reporting of identity theft and obtaining a police report.

For lowa residents: You are advised to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the lowa Attorney General.

For Massachusetts residents: You have the right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft.

**For Oregon residents:** You are advised to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Oregon Attorney General.



# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You've been provided with access to the following services<sup>1</sup> from Kroll:

# Single Bureau Credit Monitoring

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you'll have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who can help you determine if it's an indicator of identity theft.

# **Fraud Consultation**

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

# **Identity Theft Restoration**

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator can dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

<sup>1</sup> Kroll's activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Edge. To receive credit services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.