The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the cornerstone of a robust economy is a fair marketplace built on business integrity and consumer trust; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, Washington consumers may be targeted by unscrupulous businesses and scam artists intent on taking consumers' money, identities, and/or homes; and

WHEREAS, unregistered and unlicensed businesses often ignore state regulations and may not have the proper training, experience, and education as required by state rules and laws, and unfairly compete with registered businesses by not paying taxes or following regulations; and

WHEREAS, fraudulent businesses, if they collect the retail sales tax at all, are likely to keep it unlawfully, defrauding customers who expect that money to pay for public services such as roads, schools, libraries, parks, police and fire protection, and other vital public services; and

WHEREAS, deceptive and dishonest fundraising organizations, in the name of charity, may take advantage of citizens' generosity, and use contributions for their own benefit; and

WHEREAS, state, federal, and local government agencies, consumer advocacy organizations, law enforcement and industry leaders are working to protect the interests of Washington consumers and promote a healthy marketplace for business; and

WHEREAS, Washington residents can help prevent fraud by becoming informed consumers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 6-12, 2011, as

Consumer Protection Week

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 2nd day of March, 2011

Christine Gregoire

Governor Christine O. Gregoire