



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Transportation

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Re: Fraudulent U.S. Department of Transportation Letter

The Oregon Department of Transportation's Procurement Office (OPO) received notification that a letter purporting to be from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Procurement Office is again making the rounds to contractors. The letter is being faxed to contractors and requests that the contractors fill out and sign an authorization form to release financial information that includes banking institution name, account number and signature of a company officer.

Please be advised that this letter is part of fraudulent activity and that the U.S. Department of Transportation never requests this type of information from its contractors in order to make procurement decisions as stated in the letter.

Last July a similar letter was sent to contractors and suppliers. In one case, a supplier in the Portland area sent their financial information in before learning about the scam and they subsequently had to close all their bank accounts.

I will be notifying the Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Department of Justice, and as many other organizations and associations as possible to get the word out to contractors and suppliers. Last year's scam letter looked suspicious because it wasn't signed – this year, the letter has a signature on it to lend an air of credibility.

You can visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/CS/CONSTRUCTION> to see a copy of the fraudulent letter and release form.

Sincerely,

Wynnette Gentemann, Manager

Procurement Oversight & Construction Contracts Unit
503/986-2987

