

STATE OF NEBRASKA



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DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND FINANCE

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DATE: July 15, 2005

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State Agency Warns of Unauthorized Internet Mortgage Loan Solicitations

The Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance's (NDBF) Financial Institutions Division recently became aware of an unauthorized mortgage banker offering loans to Nebraskans via the Internet.

This particular company, Podoma, did not respond to Department inquiries about its business intentions in Nebraska. Podoma recently submitted loan offers in personalized emails that include the names and addresses of Nebraskans. "I strongly recommend not responding to this type of unsolicited email offering," said NDBF Legal Counsel Mike Cameron, "We encourage citizens to investigate before they divulge any personal information and report any suspicious financial contacts to the Department."

The Department offers a search engine at their site, www.ndbf.org, which allows anyone to search for information about the current status of financial institutions doing business in the State. The site also offers links for Nebraskans to submit complaints or questions about banking, finance and securities.

"We have concerns about the security of personal and financial information when the Internet is involved," said Karen Reynolds, NDBF Review Examiner. "Identity theft is on the rise and Internet business is expanding—these facts, in conjunction with the relative ease that con artists can abuse the system, demand vigilance from both the Department and citizens."

Nebraskans are encouraged to contact Reynolds if they have started to do business with Podoma. If you have questions about this issue or any investing or banking matters please call the NDBF Consumer Hotline toll free at (877) 471-3445, or visit online at www.ndbf.org.

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