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The Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) is an active member of the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA).

ASC wants Alabamians to know that we are here and open for business as your State Securities Regulator to report suspected fraud or unsuitable sales practices; receive free education materials and presentations; provide a registration/background check on financial professionals in the investment industry; or address your inquiries as always.

Please address your questions or inquiries to Dan Lord, the ASC Education and Public Affairs Manager: Email dan.lord@asc.alabama.gov or call 1-800-222-1253 and ask for Nick Vonderau, the ASC Marketing Specialist.

<u>State Securities Regulators Unaffected by Partial Shutdown of Federal Government and Available to Provide Investor Assistance</u>

WASHINGTON, DC, January 14, 2019 – The North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) today reminded investors that state securities regulators are unaffected by the partial shutdown of the federal government and available to provide information and assistance.

"State securities regulators have a long-standing relationship of cooperation and collaboration with federal securities regulators," said Michael Pieciak, NASAA President and Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation. "We are available to field investor complaints or answer questions regarding small business capital formation, as we have been for the past 100 years."

Pieciak noted that state securities regulators have oversight of nearly two-thirds of all investment adviser firms, as well as all investment adviser representatives.

The federal Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has operated on a limited basis since December 28, 2018 due to the partial closure of the federal government. According to the SEC's website, the agency is operating with a "very limited" number of staff but does have staffing available to respond to "emergency situations involving market integrity and investor protection, including law enforcement."

"State and federal securities regulators share the same mission to protect investors and the integrity of our financial markets. State securities regulators are on the beat carrying out this mission as we have done for more than a century and we stand ready to provide whatever assistance we can to investors. Our important work continues, and we are also happy to assist the SEC while it operates with limited staffing as a result of the partial federal government shutdown."

To learn more about NASAA and how its members have protected investors for the past 100 years, visit www.nasaa.org/about-us/nasaa-history.

Bob Webster

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