

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

770 WASHINGTON AVE, SUITE 570

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4700

Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253. Fax: (334) 242-0240

Email: asc@asc.state.al.us. Website: www.asc.state.al.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALABAMA JOINS IN NATIONAL INVESTOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (April 4, 2003) – Joseph Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission, announced today that representatives from the Securities Commission are taking part in a national grass-roots investor education campaign this month, to help provide investors with the information they need to make wise financial decisions and protect themselves from financial fraud.

“With interest rates at 40-year lows, a volatile stock market, longer life expectancies and the uncertain future of Social Security, smart planning for retirement is more vital than ever,” said Borg. “We are now a nation of 85 million investors. Financial education has never been more important. Investors need to understand the basics of saving and investing, know how to check out an investment or salesperson and how to protect themselves against possible fraud.”

“It is never too early, or too late, to start saving and investing for your future” said Borg, whose staff will be visiting high schools, making presentations to all types of organizations representing a wide cross-section of Alabama citizens, and conducting news media interviews. All of these activities occur year round to educate Alabamians about investing, credit and about fraud prevention. “Making smart financial choices – from using credit wisely to saving for retirement and avoiding fraud – is the best way to ensure you can meet your financial goals.”

The month-long investor education campaign, the Facts on Saving and Investing Campaign, is a joint effort of state and Canadian provincial securities regulators. The campaign is now in its sixth year.

Borg said, “One of the newest and most exciting initiatives taking place in Alabama is the formulation of an Alabama Jump\$tart Coalition. Business, government, various organizations and volunteers will pool their resources to work for the common goal of promoting financial education to all citizens. The Alabama Securities Commission is proud to participate in the new Jump\$tart Coalition along with representatives from the banking industry, Department of

Education, the Alabama Cooperative Extension, the Alabama Council on Economic Education and many more dedicated and highly talented people.

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For more information about the Jump\$tart Coalition contact the Commission's Education and Public Affairs Division or visit the ASC website at www.asc.state.al.us and check out the Jump\$tart site through the "Helpful Websites for Investors" section.

The Alabama Securities Commission enforces Alabama securities laws, licenses/registers brokers, firms, and securities products, provides background reports on financial professionals and promotes grass-roots investor education programs.

Potential investors can contact the Alabama Securities Commission for inquiries regarding securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, financial planners, the registration status of securities, to report suspected fraud, or obtain consumer information:

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If you have questions or require more information contact:

Daniel G. Lord
Education and Public Affairs Manager