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Utah State Tax Commission Warns of Phishing Scam Text

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Tax Commission is alerting the public to a new phishing scam text message that is circulating. The fraudulent text asks recipients to provide their banking account information to receive a supposed tax refund.

The scam text message, which may appear to come from an official source, is a deceptive attempt to steal sensitive personal and financial data. The Utah State Tax Commission does not request banking information, Social Security numbers, or other personal data via text message. (Sample of scam text attached)

"We want to remind all Utahns to be extremely cautious of unsolicited messages, especially those asking for personal financial information," said Jason Gardner, Deputy Executive Director. "This is a classic phishing attempt designed to trick people into giving up their bank account details. If you receive a text like this, do not click on any links or reply. Delete it immediately."

The legitimate process for receiving a tax refund is through direct deposit, which is set up by the taxpayer when they file their tax return, or by a mailed check. The Tax Commission does not use text messages to initiate or process refunds.

What to do if you receive this text:

- Do not reply to the text message.
- Do not click on any links in the text message.
- Do not provide any personal or financial information.
- Delete the text message immediately.
- **Report the scam:** You can report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/ and to the Utah State Tax Commission.

The Utah State Tax Commission urges all taxpayers to be vigilant and to protect their personal information. If you have questions about your tax return or a potential refund, the only safe way to get information is to log in to your official Utah Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) account or contact the Utah State Tax Commission directly using the contact information on its official website, tax.utah.gov.

