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February 12, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

Washington State
Office of the Attorney General
1125 Washington St SE
PO Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504
SecurityBreach@atg.wa.gov

Re: Notification of Data Security Incident— Washington State Auditor's Office

Dear Attorney General Ferguson:

This notification is provided on behalf of the Washington State Auditor's Office ("SAO") in accordance with RCW 42.56.590(7). SAO is currently investigating the scope and impact on Washington residents of a data breach involving Accellion, a third-party provider of hosted file transfer services to SAO.

To date, SAO has identified that the breach may have affected the personal information of approximately 1,300,000 Washington residents who filed Washington State unemployment benefits claims in 2020. These claims files may have contained the person's name, social security number, date of birth, street and e-mail addresses, bank account number and bank routing number.

The forensic investigation and SAO's review of the impacted files is ongoing. Additional Washington state residents, identified as the investigation continues, will receive notification and the offer of credit monitoring and we will update this notification accordingly.

On January 12, 2021, SAO received a general alert from Accellion regarding a potential security incident with Accellion's file transfer appliance. SAO immediately contacted Accellion for specific information as to whether SAO's file transfer application had been affected, and if so, which files were impacted. Over the next few weeks, Accellion provided the information necessary for SAO to conclude that its usage of the file transfer service hosted by Accellion likely had been affected. In the last week of January 2021, SAO was able to identify that the data involving ESD claims described above was accessed. Accellion has advised SAO that the compromise of SAO's usage of the Accellion service occurred in late December of 2021.

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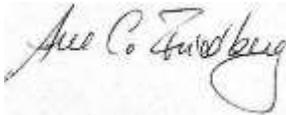
SAO had already migrated to Accellion's newest secure file transfer platform, kiteworks, as of January 1, 2021—a process that was already in place and scheduled for months before this breach of Accellion's environment occurred. SAO put a team in place to address this situation, including retaining a cybersecurity investigation firm. To date, the forensic investigators have not found any indication of compromise of SAO's computer systems and are continuing to analyze information provided by Accellion. SAO has also notified law enforcement.

In light of these circumstances and the types of personal information potentially compromised, SAO is following the substitute notice procedures set forth in RCW 42.56.590 (4) (c). SAO is moving as quickly as possible to provide e-mail notification and offering twelve (12) months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity restoration services to the Washington residents whose personal information was contained within the data files potentially compromised as a result of this breach.

A preliminary notice regarding this incident was posted on the SAO website and an updated notice with information about the offer of credit monitoring and telephone number for the call center will be published in the near future. A copy of the e-mail notification to Washington residents who filed Washington State unemployment benefits claims in 2020 will be filed with your office concurrently with the e-mail distribution.

Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Sue Friedberg



Jason R. McLean

Cc: Pat McCarthy, Washington State Auditor – *Via Email*