

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 27th, 2005

Contact: Steve Cleary - AkPIRG - 278-3661

AkPIRG Calls on Sen. Stevens to Bolster Identity Theft Protections

Bill Will Weaken Tough State Laws

Thursday, the Senate Commerce Committee is scheduled to mark-up S. 1408, the Identity Theft Protection Act. The bill is a broad and bi-partisan bill that would establish in federal law many necessary protections have already been enacted in many states.

Unfortunately, it is also weaker than many of those state laws, and it includes broad subject matter preemption provisions that would affect state security freeze laws, SSN restrictions, and breach notification laws.

Strengthening amendments will be introduced, including proposals to strike the preemption provisions and AkPIRG is calling on Senator Stevens to vote to add provisions so that states can act to protect consumers.

"We commend Senator Stevens for working to address the problem of identity theft. But, the bill needs a lot of work. We urge him to support strengthening amendments to the bill, and to allow states to enact stronger protections," stated AkPIRG's Steve Cleary. "The Alaska Legislature is considering broad protections that should not be preempted by federal action."