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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elisabeth Hadler
775.789.3109
elisabethh@greatbasin.org

Great Basin Federal Credit Union Proactive in Preventing Fraud
A recent telephone phishing scam causing great concern for consumers.

Washoe County community members have fallen victim to a recent cellular phone phishing scam where fraudsters attempt to capture debit card information and PIN numbers from unsuspecting consumers. The fraudsters are calling cellular phones with an automated message stating they are from Great Basin Federal Credit Union. The message proceeds to tell the person that their debit card has been deactivated and instructs them to key in their credit card number and PIN in order to reactivate it.

Great Basin Federal Credit Union was made aware of this scam around 1:30 Thursday afternoon. "The calls just started flooding in. We are so pleased that consumers seemed to suspect fraud right away and called us to report it." states Great Basin Federal Credit Union Chief Operations Officer Jennifer Denoo. Most callers were not Great Basin members, but called to report anyhow. For those callers that were members, Great Basin was able to check their account for any suspicious activity and place blocks on any cards where information was given out to the scammers by the member.

Great Basin Federal Credit Union has been collecting as much data as possible from callers. The data indicates that the calls were always made to cellular phones, but not isolated to just one carrier; in fact, we have identified at least four different carriers that have been affected. The caller IDs were non-descript and limited to just two to four-digit numbers. Great Basin does not have any information indicating whether other financial institutions have been affected or if the fraudsters are only using Great Basin Federal Credit Union in their automated message.

Though Great Basin Federal Credit Union is taking these measures to protect its members, it urges all consumers to do their part as well to avoid becoming a victim. It's important that consumers know that Great Basin Federal Credit Union has NOT authorized these calls and consumers should NEVER give their personal information to anyone. The credit union has posted warnings and information online at www.greatbasin.org, as well as placed an alert warning that callers will hear immediately when calling the main credit union phone line.

"This problem is not just affecting Great Basin members," states Denoo, "It's a widespread, and very scary problem that is happening community-wide. Financial institutions, police authorities and consumers need to really be aware and work together to prevent these criminals from raiding innocent peoples' accounts."

For additional information on Great Basin Federal Credit Union, please contact Elisabeth Hadler at 775.789.3109, or visit www.greatbasin.org.

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Great Basin Federal Credit Union was established in 1951 as a 50 member credit union open to employees of the Reno-Bell Phone Company. In the past 59 years, Great Basin Federal Credit Union has grown to over 12,000 members and over \$108 million in assets. Membership is open to anyone living or working in Washoe County. Great Basin Federal Credit Union is committed to forming personable relationships with all of its members while providing sound financial education. For more information, please visit us at www.greatbasin.org or call 775.333.4228.