



MEDIA RELEASE

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Georgia Watch names Rep. Rob Telheit a Friend of the Consumer

ATLANTA – Today, Representative Rob Telheit (D-Smyrna) was presented a "Friend of the Consumer" award by Georgia Watch Executive Director Allison Wall, for his work with HB 130 — the credit freeze bill — and his continuous efforts to pass affordable credit freeze for all Georgians.

Since August 1st, the fee for Georgians to bar access to their credit files with the three major credit agencies (CRA's) has been reduced from \$10 to \$3. For victims of identity theft and senior citizens, the freeze will be free. Credit freeze is the only effective tool to stop new account fraud, the most damaging forms of identity theft, by prohibiting identity thieves from fraudulently opening new accounts or lines of credit.

Rep. Telheit was the first member of the state legislature to file a bill authorizing credit freeze – HB 966 back in the 2006 session. For three years he has inspired bi-partisan support from colleagues such as Rep. Tommy Benton, with whom he worked behind the scenes, and from the well, to get a strong bill passed. Rep. Telheit's dedication to get Georgian's affordable credit freeze has been rewarded with the passing of HB 130 during the 2008 General Assembly.

"I am excited beyond words that we in Georgia now have the best credit freeze law in the United States," said Georgia Watch board member and consumer guru Clark Howard. **"Now Georgians have the best way possible to shut down identity thieves cold."**

Additionally, in the 2008 session Rob filed HB 1030, a consumer protection bill dealing with tax refund loans: