April 15, 2019

Honorable Members of the Illinois General Assembly,

In accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act (815 ILCS 530), please be advised of the following:

On April 8, 2019, a Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) employee assigned to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) discovered that approximately 17,000 watercraft registration records containing personal information, as defined by the Act, were inadvertently uploaded to the State of Illinois Open Data Portal on April 4, 2019. Each record contained full name, address, gender, date of birth, and social security number. Upon discovery, the information was immediately removed.

DoIT has been able to determine that four IP addresses may have accessed the information. As of this notice, two have been identified, contacted, and have stated that they have deleted any collected information.

We are currently reviewing policies, procedures, and requirements in collaboration with state agencies authorized to post data to the Open Data Portal to ensure data is appropriately reviewed and approved prior to posting. Additionally, DoIT is quickly exploring options for systemically flagging and preventing the posting of any type of personal information to prevent a similar incident. DoIT and DNR are preparing a notification to impacted individuals as well as other notifications to the credit rating agencies and the Office of the Attorney General.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to DoIT Chief of Staff, Jennifer Ricker at Jennifer.Ricker@illinois.gov or 217.524.6368.

Sincerely,

Ron Guerrier
State CIO
Secretary