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From: **Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP**
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This notification from the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor is intended to alert all state agencies, state universities and community colleges, public school systems, local governments, and other public authorities, particularly with transportation, garage and maintenance operations, to a purchasing scheme targeting public entities throughout the United States.

A company named Stone Cold Chemicals, based in Loganville, GA and Daytona Beach, FL has sold various products to local, state and federal agencies at extremely inflated prices over a number of years. The products included insect repellent, deicer, automotive chemicals, including degreasers, cleaners and waxes, and janitorial supplies. In some instances, Stone Cold Chemicals secured business with government agencies by providing gift cards to purchasing officers.

Although Stone Cold Chemicals ceased operations in the fall of 2003, please notify the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor if you did business with this company.

In addition, there may be other companies with a similar mode of operation. Therefore, you should review all purchasing transactions. We plan to issue a follow-up to this Alert as more details are available.