
From: Linda Messner [linda_messner@oxy.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 2:02 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Docket No. 017: End conflicts of interest!

Jan 18, 2005

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board

Dear Accounting Oversight Board,

I am writing to support your proposal to promote the ethics and independence of public accounting firms that audit and review financial statements of U.S. public companies. I believe that the auditing profession must reinforce its long-held ethical standards by helping to ensure that the auditor remains independent of his or her audit client. I believe that auditors compromise their independence when they sell tax shelters and other aggressive tax strategies to audit clients and when they provide tax services to the company officials who oversee the financial reporting process. It is time for company executives to be held more accountable to their workers and their stock holders. I agree with the Securities and Exchange Commission that the independence requirement serves two related, but distinct public policy goals. One is to foster high quality audits by minimizing potential conflicts of interest, the other is to promote investor confidence in the financial statements of public companies. Confidence that has faltered with all of the recent scandals and wrongdoing that has been prominently reported lately. I support PCAOB's efforts and the overall proposal.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linda Messner
4156 Higuera St
Culver City, CA 90232-2527