
From: Nancy Welch [pearl_of_egypt@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2005 2:26 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. 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. These financial companies have compromised their integrity and misused the trust of the American public. This is a flaw in the system, which should of been corrected years ago, instead of waiting until it turned into a national crisis. Correcting it at this stage may not inspire potential investors to immediately feel confident in the financial statements of these public companies, or in the auditors who are responsible for auditing the financial accounts of these same companies. I myself have continued doubts, in all parties involved. I support PCAOB's efforts and the overall proposal.

Sincerely,

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