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Subject: Private Company Financial Reporting

Board of Trustees
Financial Accounting Foundation
401 Merritt 7, P.O. Box 5116
Norwalk, CT 06856-5116
presidentsdesk@f-a-f.org

Dear Financial Accounting Foundation:

I urge FAF to adopt the recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Private Company Financial Reporting regarding differential standards and a separate standard-setting entity for private companies. Such historic change is necessary to effectively bring about sensible, useful financial reporting for private companies and the users of their financial statements (such as bankers/lenders, insurers, venture capitalists and others).

I believe a systemic problem exists. There is an increasing lack of relevance of accounting standards for private companies and their financial statement users. Further, the panel was correct in that there is not a proper weighing of costs and benefits when it comes to setting standards for private companies.

In addition, substantive differences in current and future standards for private companies, where appropriate, are necessary. Having appropriate differences will lead to more relevant financial statements that provide decision-useful information to the users of private company financial statements.

Further, a new, separate body with standard-setting authority must be established directly under FAF and not subject to FASB approval. This might be the most important recommendation to implement.

Users and preparers of financial statements as well as others provided valuable and adequate research to the panel on the problems and needed solutions related to private company financial reporting. Differential standards and an autonomous standard-setting body to implement them for private companies are needed now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melissa Engel
CPA practitioner
Hamilton Associates, P.C.