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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](mailto:presidentsdesk@f-a-f.org)

Dear Financial Accounting Foundation:

1) 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 reports 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. The current standard-setting process does not adequately take into account the needs of the private company sector. There is an increasing lack of relevance of accounting standards for private companies and their financial statement users.

Accounting standards have been and are driven by issues affecting public companies. Further, the panel was correct in that private companies are incurring significant unnecessary costs for GAAP financial statement preparation and audit, review or compilation services and 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. Private company financial reporting, as it stands now, is too complex, embodies too much irrelevant information and is too costly and time-consuming given its benefits.

Further, a new, separate body with standard-setting authority must be established directly under FAF and not subject to FASB approval. An autonomous standard-setting body is the only answer to address the problem. Given the public company reporting pressures placed upon FASB, the board cannot adequately respond to the competing needs of the private company sector.

The work done by the panel was extensive and took into account input from all the key constituencies of private company financial reporting.

Differential standards and an autonomous standard-setting body to implement them for private companies are needed now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ted Hartshorn  
Private company financial management  
Lignetics, Inc.