

**From:** [Stephen Gay <smg@hhncpa.com>](mailto:smg@hhncpa.com)

**To:** [President's Desk  
smg@hhncpa.com](mailto:smg@hhncpa.com)

**Date:** 7/6/2011 3:40:36 PM

**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:

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 meaningful financial statements 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 private companies are incurring significant unnecessary costs for GAAP financial statement preparation and audit, review or compilation services .

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. Given the public company reporting pressures placed upon FASB, the board cannot adequately respond to the competing needs of the private company sector.

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,

Stephen Gay  
CPA practitioner  
Harris, Harvey, Neal & Co., LLP