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Dear Commissioner Evans: I write to say I concur with the thought that the municipalities should be required to submit to an independent audit by CPAs. Also, I think far higher standards of conduct should be instituted for legal and ratings services connected with municipals. As I see it, these folks have been on one big gravy train -- when I hear the moaning, groaning and whining out here, I will then know you really have tried to "do something".

Federal rules on municipal bonds are inevitable, an official said.
John Evans, a Securities & Exchange commissioner, said public demand for federal surveillance of municipal bond offerings is growing in the wake of the recent New York City credit crisis. He also noted disenchantment with bond-rating agencies, concern by municipal workers about pensions and the growing number of individuals investing in municipal bonds. Evans told a meeting of the Municipal Finance Officers Assn. in Boston that the group's guidelines on disclosure are "inadequate," mainly because they are voluntary rather than mandated.

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Sincerely,
Robert L. Aronoff
Generally speaking, the Commission does good work -- but has a long way to go if really doing what it should be doing: protecting investors and potential investors. Remember, shining a spotlight (ie, disclosure) on a subject doesn't destroy the subject unless it is sensitive to light.