

NOV. 3. 2000 12:34PM

MICHAEL G. OXLEY  
FOURTH OHIO DISTRICT

2223 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3504  
(202) 226-2876  
<http://www.house.gov/oxley>  
[mike.oxley@msi.house.gov](mailto:mike.oxley@msi.house.gov)

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

VICE CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRADE  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3504  
November 3, 2000

THIS IS A COPY OF ORIGINAL MATERIAL  
IN THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY RARE BOOK AND  
MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY. THIS MATERIAL MAY BE  
PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW (TITLE 17 U.S. CODE

100 EAST MAIN STREET  
COLUMBIA, OH 43004  
(614) 423-9210

3181 WEST ELM PLAZA  
LIMA, OH 45805  
(419) 899-4165

24 WEST THIRD STREET  
ROOM 314  
MANSFIELD, OH 44902  
(419) 522-5757

TOLL-FREE IN OHIO  
(800) 472-4154

The Honorable Arthur Levitt  
Chairman  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Chairman Levitt:

I'm writing once again on the issue of auditor independence, this time on the relatively minor (but nonetheless important) matter of the impact on middle market accounting firms.

It recently has come to my attention that the proposed rule could have an adverse effect on such firms, particularly those operating under an Alternative Practice Structure. In the spirit of ensuring that all potential effects on auditor-client relationships are fully considered, I hope that Alternative Practice Structures and the needs of middle market accounting firms are not overlooked.

Middle market accounting firms appear to offer important benefits to the profession and the segments of the business community they serve. Others who have considered Alternative Practice Structures have found basis for accommodation ensuring that auditor independence is not compromised nor investor protection endangered. I trust the Commission will make a similar effort.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Michael G. Oxley  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on  
Finance and Hazardous Materials

ES 86872