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From: Ken_M_Ripley@amat.com

Sent: Friday, June 18, 2004 7:19 AM

To: Director - FASB

Subject: File Reference 1102-100: Accounting for Stock Options and ESPPs

Letter of Comment No: 4697 File Reference: 1102-100

I am writing to express my opposition to changing the accounting treatment for stock options and Employee Stock Purchase Plans (ESPPs).

During the last 10 years, ESPP and Company Stock Options, have helped me provide a better life for my family. These incentives do make employess work harder because of the potential increase in pay that a better stock price gives us. I agree that most companies give too many options to the top managers, but even the few options given to us lower level employees can have a great impact on our pay. I have been able to pay for Christmas presents because of these benefits for 7 of the last 10 years. At least 3 vacations in the last 10 years have also been paid for with these benefits. I have options given to me that will help at least one of my daughter's to go to college! If the accounting changes happen, the top managers will still continue to receive options, but the regular employees will have to be cut off. I would have to agree, with companies, that it would be too expensive to continue giving out these options to all their employees. It would also be useless because the company stock value would go down as the companies try to guess at future costs that these options may have. Please continue to allow companies to give us these options by leaving the present accounting rules in place.

Sincerely, Ken Ripley Customer Engineer IV Applied Materials