

From: smehta@altera.com
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2004 7:23 PM
To: Director - FASB
Subject: File Reference No. 1102-100, Comment on FASB Stock Option Proposal



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Dear Mr. Robert Herz:

I am writing in reference to FASB's invitation to comment on its exposure draft, "Share-Based Payment," an amendment of Statements No. 123 and 95. Any person in this world with an above-average quality education should have read the book "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand. I ask you this, with all due respect: if Ayn Rand were alive today, what would she have said about the new rules that the FASB is set upon imposing on most honest, high-achieving, hardworking people? She'd be shocked and dismayed.

For most highly educated professionals working in industry, stock options is the lure for the fish. Without it, we will see interest and enrollment in high-tech careers begin to drop. Beyond the USA, this is something the whole world cannot afford.

We live in a time wherein the USA is seeing increased pressure and competition from other countries in the world when it comes to staying competitive in the high-tech arena. The time now is to motivate people into joining and staying in high technology fields, not the opposite. Please bear in mind that enrollment in engineering courses in US universities has been dropping steadily in the past decade. This should be a cause for (more) alarm for those that are leading this fabulous nation. The right strategy isn't to simply keep increasing the number of foreign student visa budgets - that is akin to fixing the symptoms and not the disease.

A salary is never motivation enough for the truly talented. Rules for a few unscrupulous firms shouldn't affect the vast majority of honest people. In my opinion, what the FASB is set to do is unfair, unfriendly to global business and plain un-American. I look to my elected leaders to use everything in their power and not let this happen.

Please do not disappoint us.

Sincerely,

Shamik Mehta
Altera Corporation
5095 Elmwood Drive
San Jose, CA 95130