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Letter of Comment No: 5415
File Reference: 1102-100

From: Matthew Crowe [mcrowe@symantec.com]
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2004 4:18 PM
To: Director - FASB
Cc: arak@symantec.com
Subject: File Reference No. 1102-100

Chariman Robert H. Herz:

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the expensing of stock options as detailed in the above file reference. In the wake of the Enron scandal, introducing additional financial accountability reforms is important to ensure that investors worldwide can place confidence in the figures that our public companies report.

However, the proposal as detailed in 1102-100 do nothing to increase the public's confidence in public companies. Stock option and stock purchase plan expenses are already listed in a public company's financial reporting and interested investors can easily dig up this information if they are concerned about this topic.

Additionally, "possible gain realized" versus "gain realized" is not the same. Just because a company _could have_ sold a share for XYZ amount does not equal a loss for the company when they sell it for a lower amount. A company should not be penalized for providing employees with an alternate income stream that's based on performance.

Last, stock options and stock purchase plans help a lot of companies get off the ground these days. The proposals as referenced above would curtail innovation in this country; will curtail the activity that America is best known for. Stock options and stock purchase plans encourage owners and employees to come up with new ideas, build a company around it, and get rewarded if the idea does well.

I am urging you to reverse the FASB's recommendation regarding the expensing of stock options and stock purchase plans.

Respectfully,

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