

BIRDSALL SERVICES GROUP, INC.



BIRDSALL ENGINEERING, INC. DISTASIO & VAN BUREN, INC. LGA ENGINEERING, INC. MORRIS, JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

November 26, 2003

Mr. Robert Herz Chairman Financial Accounting Standards Board 401 Merritt 7, PO Box 5116 Norwalk, CT 06856-5116 Letter of Comment No: 103A

File Reference: 1100-LEU Date Received: /2/04/03

Dear Chairman Herz:

On behalf of Birdsall Services Group, Inc., we would like to express our strong concerns over the impact that Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 150 (FAS 150) will have on the financial standing of my firm and many other non-public engineering firms throughout the country.

As you know, FAS 150 requires non-public companies to classify as liabilities any financial instrument issued in the form of equity that is "mandatorily redeemable". A financial instrument (stock) is "mandatorily redeemable" if it requires the company or entity to buy back the assets at a specific date or time, such as retirement. Since many firms have such arrangements in place where shares are automatically repurchased when a shareholder retires, resigns or dies, the new standard is expected to impact most non-public firms.

Firms must follow FASB's standards to comply with generally accepted accounting principles. Unfortunately, by classifying as *debt* equities held by our shareholders, the affect of the new standard could be to significantly reduce, or even eliminate, the net worth of my firm and many other non-public engineering firms. The revisions to our financial statements as required by FAS 150 will not reflect the firm's real financial condition, yet they will have very dire consequences on our ability to obtain new clients, loans, bonding and insurance.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my firm, we would respectfully urge you to repeal or modify this standard for non-public, non-SEC registered companies. Should you wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please contact Steve Hall, ACEC's Director of Government Affairs, at (202) 347-7474.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sinterely,

Howard C. Birdsall

President and Chief Executive Officer