

Letter of Comment No: 6239  
File Reference: 1102-100

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Director, Major Projects and Technical Activities Financial Accounting Standards Board  
File Reference No. 1102-100  
Share-Based Payment; an amendment of FASB Statements No. 123 and 95  
Norwalk, CT 06856-5116

Subject: Make Companies Put Stock Options on the Books

Dear Director, Major Projects and Technical Activities Standards Board:

I strongly support your proposal to require companies to expense stock options. Not expensing stock options has promoted their overuse in CEO pay against the long-term interests of shareholders. For example, I believe stock options provided a financial incentive for Enron executives to cook the books.

This is why both my father and my uncle lost their jobs. My father had to change fields to get work, and my uncle had to relocate to another state -- in both cases, it took them more than two years to re-enter the work force. Don't think that it did not take a toll on our family -- both financially and emotionally!

The retirement savings of America's working families depend in part on all companies, including small businesses and start-ups, having honest accounting practices. Companies that do not expense stock options are hiding their true cost from investors, creditors and other consumers of financial reports. In my opinion, stock option compensation should not receive preferential accounting treatment.

In conclusion, I urge you to require stock option expensing as soon as possible. Independent experts, such as the Financial Accounting Standards Board, should set the standards on stock option expensing, not the politicians in Washington. Stock options are a compensation expense, and this cost can be reliably estimated using your proposed accounting method. I believe corporate executives should be ashamed for trying to hide the cost of stock options from their investors.

Remember, good people were -- and still are -- out of work because of this.

Sincerely,

Theresa Gasper

cc:  
Senator Richard Shelby