In 1992 my partner and I started an engineering company to provide automated visual inspection equipment to the global semiconductor industry. Our new venture was started with very little financing, and what we did have came from the sale of our homes (and perhaps a few too many credit cards). Today we employ nearly 200 people and trade on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbol AUGT. I can assure you without reservation that August Technology would not have been nearly as successful if we. I understand the general arguments both for and against the expensing of stock options, and what seem to be clear arguments can be made on both sides. I would simply like to weigh in for the entrepreneurs and start-ups in America and say that stock options (non-expensed) play a key part in helping ensure both short-term and long-term success of our technology businesses.

Thank you,

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