



United States General Accounting Office  
Washington, DC 20548

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April 27, 2001

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives

Subject: Federally Chartered Corporation: Review of the Financial Statement Audit Reports for the Former Members of Congress for 1999 and 1998

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested, we reviewed the audit reports covering the financial statements of the Former Members of Congress, a federally chartered corporation, for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998. The corporation's purpose is to promote the improved public understanding of the Congress as an institution and representative democracy as a system of government, both domestically and internationally.

Federally chartered corporations are required under 36 U.S.C. 10101 to

present the corporation's assets and liabilities and reasonable detail on the corporation's income and expenses in annual financial statements,

obtain an annual financial audit by an independent public accountant, and

submit the auditors' report and the corporation's financial statements to the Congress.

The objective of our review was to determine whether the audit reports complied with the financial reporting requirements of the law. In carrying out our work, we reviewed the corporation's financial statements and the accompanying notes, performed certain analytical procedures related to information presented in the financial statements, reviewed the auditors' reports, and made inquiries to corporation officials or the auditors as we deemed necessary. We did not review the auditors' working papers. Our review disclosed no reportable instances of noncompliance.

The audit reports included the auditors' opinions that the financial statements of the corporation were presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. We are returning the audit reports you sent with your letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Steinhoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeffrey C. Steinhoff  
Managing Director  
Financial Management and Assurance

w/o Enclosures

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