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Washington, DC 20548

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January 26, 2007

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
House of Representatives

Subject: *Federally Chartered Corporation: Financial Statement Audit Reports for the American Council of Learned Societies for Fiscal Years 2003–2005*

Dear Mr. Sensenbrenner:

As requested, we read the audit reports covering the financial statements of the American Council of Learned Societies, a federally chartered corporation, for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2005, 2004, and 2003. The corporation's purpose is to advance humanistic studies in all fields of learning and strengthen relations among the national societies devoted to such studies.

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 and
- obtain an annual financial audit by an independent public accountant.

Our objective was to advise you of any matters in the reports regarding compliance with the financial reporting requirements of the law. In carrying out our work, we read the corporation's financial statements and the accompanying notes, performed certain analytical procedures related to information presented in the financial statements, and read the auditor's reports. We did not identify any instance of noncompliance with the above financial reporting requirements of the law.

We did not perform an audit or review the auditor's audit documentation, and we are not rendering an audit opinion. However, we did hold limited discussions with the corporation regarding potential enhancements to the corporation's financial reporting.

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

This letter is intended solely for your use. This letter will be available at no charge on GAO's Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this letter, please contact me at (202) 512-3406 or by e-mail at [sebastians@gao.gov](mailto:sebastians@gao.gov). Contact points for our Offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this letter. Key contributors to this letter were Charles Payton, Assistant Director; David Elder; and Franklin Ng.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven J. Sebastian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S".

Steven J. Sebastian  
Director  
Financial Management and Assurance

(196133)

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