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United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

July 7, 2006

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

Subject: *Federally Chartered Corporation: Financial Statement Audit Report for the Former Members of Congress for Fiscal Year 2004*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested, we read the audit report covering the financial statements of the Former Members of Congress, a federally chartered corporation, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004. The corporation's purpose is to promote the cause of good government at the national level by improving the public understanding of the Congress as an institution and strengthening its support by the public.

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 report 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 report. We also held limited discussions with the corporation's auditor regarding potential enhancements that could be made to the corporation's financial reporting. 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.

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

This letter is intended solely for your use and the use of the Committee on the Judiciary. 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. 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 Lien To.

Sincerely yours,

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

Steven J. Sebastian
Director
Financial Management and Assurance

(196112)

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