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May 12, 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 National Tropical Botanical Garden for Fiscal Years 2003 and  
2002*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested, we read the audit report covering the financial statements of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, a federally chartered corporation, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2003, and 2002. The corporation's purpose is to establish and operate, for the benefit of the people of the United States, a tropical botanical garden for encouraging and conducting research in basic and applied tropical botany.

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 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](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 Lien To.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven J. Sebastian".

Steven J. Sebastian  
Director  
Financial Management and Assurance

(196100)

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