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September 9, 2008

The Honorable Christopher Cox, Chairman
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20549

Dear Chairman Cox,

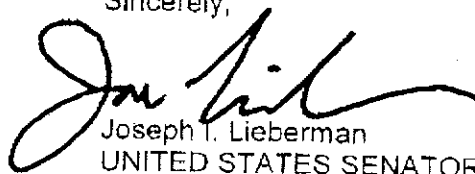
On June 25, 2008, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued Proposed Rule 151A, which would treat indexed annuities as securities subject to federal securities laws. I am writing to request a 90-day extension of the deadline for public comments on this important proposal.

As you know, an indexed annuity is a type of annuity that guarantees a minimum return and is subject to minimum non-forfeiture requirements. Indexed annuity products are part of an insurance carrier's general account. Although indexed annuities guarantee a minimum return, they calculate a current crediting rate based on an index. Under the proposed rule, the Commission would define a class of indexed annuities that are outside the scope of section 3(a)(8) of the Securities Act, which exempts certain insurance contracts from federal regulation. In so doing, the Commission concluded that the proposed rule would enhance investor protection and provide the issuers and sellers of the products with greater legal certainty regarding their obligations. If finalized, the rule will have far-reaching consequences for the regulation of insurance products in Connecticut and around the nation. In Connecticut, our state insurance department reviews and approves all annuity products prior to their sale, requires extensive disclosure, and oversees marketing practices. The department is considering a regulation on suitability of annuity sales that will provide additional consumer protection.

I believe the current 78-day comment period does not provide sufficient time for all affected parties to thoroughly review the release and respond to over 100 individual, detailed questions posed by the drafters. Moreover, the number of unanswered questions in the release suggests that additional research by the Commission may be warranted before issuing a final rule. In particular, a 90-day extension of the comment period would allow the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to complete its review of the leading insurance companies selling indexed annuities and the state regulatory regimes that govern them.

I very much appreciate your thoughtful review of this matter and consideration of my request to extend the comment period.

Sincerely,


Joseph I. Lieberman
UNITED STATES SENATOR

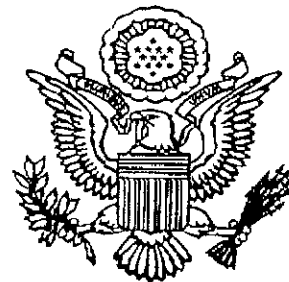
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CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

cc: Michael L. Kosoff, Office of Disclosure and Insurance Products Regulation, Division of Investment Management; Keith E. Carpenter, Office of Disclosure and Insurance Products Regulation, Division of Investment Management; Jonathan Burks, Director of Legislative Affairs

FAX

UNITED STATES SENATOR • CONNECTICUT

Joseph I. Lieberman



Fax to: JONATHAN BURKS, SEC LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS Date 9-9-08

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From: RYAN McCORMICK, COUNSEL

OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN

Message: _____

