



United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

March 14, 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 American Council of Learned Societies for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2002*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested, we read the audit report covering the financial statements of the American Council of Learned Societies, a federally chartered corporation, for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2003 and 2002. The corporation's purpose is the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning and the maintenance and strengthening of 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 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. 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 David Elder, Franklin Ng, and Charles Payton.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven J. Sebastian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Sebastian" clearly legible.

Steven J. Sebastian
Director
Financial Management and Assurance

(196077)

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