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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

February 15, 2002

Lindy L. Paull, Esq.  
 Chief of Staff  
 Joint Committee on Taxation  
 1015 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Paull

Recent press reports have raised troubling questions about Enron Corp. and related entities' ("Enron") compliance with the Federal income tax laws, including the use of entities in tax haven countries, other special purpose entities, and questionable tax shelter arrangements. According to some press reports, Enron may have used such arrangements to improperly avoid paying corporate income taxes.

We are also concerned by reports that thousands of Enron employees have suffered pension losses in recent months while corporate insiders appear to have reaped substantial profit during that same period. Qualified pension plans and many other compensation arrangements receive considerable tax benefits and are otherwise facilitated by the Federal tax laws. Recent reports about Enron raise concerns that the objectives behind these tax law provisions are not being fulfilled.

Accordingly, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 8022, we direct the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation to undertake a review of Enron's Federal tax returns, tax information, and any other relevant information as you deem necessary, from 1985 to the present to assist us in evaluating if the Federal tax laws facilitated any of the events or transactions that preceded Enron's bankruptcy. The review should examine the adequacy of present tax law, particularly in the areas of tax shelters and offshore entities. It should also include a review of the compensation arrangements of Enron employees, including tax-qualified retirement plans, nonqualified deferred compensation arrangements, and other arrangements, and an analysis of the factors that may have contributed to any loss of benefits and the extent to which losses were experienced by different categories of employees.

We ask that you transmit your findings, and recommendations for reform, to the Senate Committee on Finance as soon as practicable. We also request that you keep the Committee updated on the progress on your study and advise us on any problems you may have in securing timely access to the information needed to perform this review.

Senate Finance Committee

**APPENDIX A**

Lindy L. Paull, Esq.

February 15, 2002

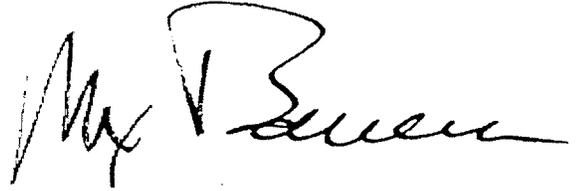
Page Two

We want to thank you and your staff for undertaking this important review and look forward to receiving your report.

Sincerely yours,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member



Max Baucus  
Chairman