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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

December 14, 2000

Thomas J. Baumgartner, Chairman
State Board of Accountancy
116 Pine Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

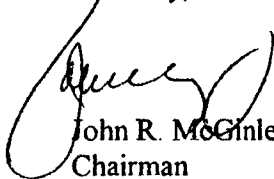
Re: Regulation #16A-555 (IRRC #2096)
State Board of Accountancy
Continuing Education Program Sponsors

Dear Chairman Baumgartner:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation on December 14, 2000. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at www.irrc.state.pa.us.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that met the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,



John R. McGinley, Jr.
Chairman

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Enclosure

cc: Honorable Mario J. Civera, Jr., Majority Chairman, House Professional Licensure Committee
Honorable William W. Rieger, Democratic Chair, House Professional Licensure Committee
Honorable Clarence D. Bell, Chairman, Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
Honorable Lisa M. Boscola, Minority Chairman, Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee
Honorable Kim Pizzigrilli, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Albert H. Masland, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, Department of State
Steven Wennberg, Counsel, State Board of Accountancy
Joyce McKeever, Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held December 14, 2000

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman, by phone
Arthur Coccodrilli
Robert J. Harbison, III
John F. Mizner

Regulation No. 16A-555
State Board of Accountancy
Continuing Education Program Sponsors

On February 7, 2000, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the State Board of Accountancy (Board). This rulemaking amends 49 Pa. Code §§ 11.1, 11.4, 11.64, 11.65, 11.69a, 11.70, 11.71, 11.71a and 11.72. The proposed regulation was published in the February 19, 2000 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on October 30, 2000.

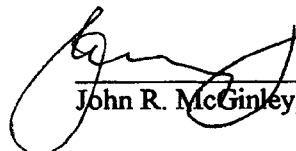
The rulemaking: requires all previously approved continuing education sponsors to seek reapproval; strengthens procedures for initial program sponsor approval and withdrawal of approval; enlarges the responsibilities of program sponsors to include program development; provides for audits of continuing education programs; provides "deemed approval status" to program sponsors registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy; and establishes fees for initial program approval and biennial renewal.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Board (63 P.S. §§ 9.3(10) and 9.6) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.




John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman