

March 28, 2003

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the comment period on the revised LM-2 forms comes to an end, we are writing to express our strong support for these reforms and to commend the Administration for taking the action on behalf of organized labor's rank and file.

The recent corporate accounting scandals resulted in new transparency requirements for corporate America. We believe scandals such as the Washington Teachers Union and ULLICO should do no less for America's labor unions. It is clear that this current decades-old regulation has been inadequate to curtail such abuse of members' dues. Organized labor fortuitously escaped coverage in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

We have followed the debate in the media with great interest. We find it ironic that some labor unions that have been advocating increased disclosure for corporate entities are so vigorously opposing a modest increase in transparency and accountability and would welcome these enhancements to the LM-2 form.

We urge the Department of Labor to enforce the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, which has been virtually neglected over the last 10 years. The organizations listed below represent a wide cross section of the center-right coalition that is dedicated to promoting federal policies to protect individual rights, limit the size of government, and defend freedom. We view the Department of Labor's effort as paramount and urge you not to be deterred by the unfair and inaccurate representations made by the detractors of this much needed reform.

Sincerely,