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House of Representatives **NO FOX SHOULD GUARD THE HEN HOUSE**

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MR. FILNER: Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Kucinich) for yielding me the time.

I rise in support of the Kucinich and Progressive Caucus substitute to H.R. 3763. This substitute restores integrity to investor-owned companies by ensuring that the investors and taxpayers and employees get an accurate assessment of a corporation.

We know that the Enron debacle demonstrated how corrupting the so-called free market is when corporate officials and auditing firms are intertwined. When we create the Federal bureau of audits we remove this corrupting influence, and appointments for 12 years remove the temptation of Congress to tamper with the watchdog duties.

So let us remove the conflict of interest between corporations and auditing firms they can hire and fire. We can guarantee shareholders accurate and impartial information about their investments, and that

is the true free market solution to this problem.

The underlying bill is more than a no no bill. It is a no no no no no no no no no bill because does the bill help the SEC recover ill-gotten gains from corporate executives? No. Does it make CEOs responsible for their companies' public disclosures? No. Does it help the SEC send those who commit fraud to jail? No. Does it bar bad executives from serving in other companies? No. Does it make auditors independent? No. Does it ensure the oversight board is independent? No. Does it give the oversight board a clear mandate? No. Does it require auditors to be rotated? No. Does it close the revolving doors between accountants and their clients? No.

The underlying bill could be termed the Ken Lay Protection Act. We can no longer have the fox guarding the hen house. The Kucinich amendment fixes the problem.