



CHARLES C. FOTI, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

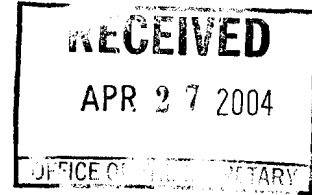
State of Louisiana
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April 19, 2004

William Donaldson
Chairman
Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20549

ST-10-04



RE: Trade-through Rule

Dear Chairman Donaldson:

As Attorney General for the State of Louisiana, it is my duty to protect the pension funds, municipal as well as State, I believe that investors should have fair access to an efficient market place which is free from any antiquated structures and policies which appear to fuel monopolistic practices on behalf of any regulated group, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission regulation of New York Stock Exchange trading practices.

I have been contacted by different funds within the State of Louisiana and, more particularly, by the Senate of the State of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans in regards to the trade-through rules, which I believe have been effect for over 150 years.

In today's new electronic world, there is no pressing need to have an out-moded system such as the trade-through rule which should be abolished as antiquated in this electronic age. This reform being proposed would, in my opinion, ensure a more competitive marketplace that would prevent manipulation and help guarantee public confidence in the trading system.

I would back the exchange-traded funds pilot program to be expanded as an exemption to the New York Stock Exchange listed stock trade-through rule.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, in this regard I remain,

Sincerely,

CHARLES C. FOTI, JR.
Attorney General
State of Louisiana