Auditor Independence Proposal

Resolved, that the shareholders of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. ("Company") request that the Board of Directors and its Audit Committee adopt a policy stating that the public accounting firm retained by our Company to audit the Company’s financial statements will perform only “audit” and “audit-related” work for the Company and not perform services generating “tax fees” and “all other fees” as categorized under U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") regulations.

Supporting Statement: The issue of auditor independence has been a major concern for investors and the markets since the demise of Enron. In response to numerous incidences of accounting fraud that shook the foundations of the corporate financial auditing and reporting system, both Congress and the SEC have responded with important reforms. However, we believe that more needs to be done to limit the potential impairment of auditor independence.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act ("Sarbanes-Oxley") was a strong effort to deal with various aspects of the auditor independence issue. Sarbanes-Oxley enhanced the role of board audit committees in retaining and monitoring audit firms, while limiting the types of non-audit services that audit firms are permitted to perform for audit clients. The SEC followed-up with enhanced reporting requirements (Release No. 33-8183, May 6, 2003) that provide investors better insight into the range of services beyond audit services for which an audit firm is being utilized. The following categories of service fees must be reported: (1) Audit Fees; (2) Audit-Related Fees; (3) Tax Fees, and (4) All Other Fees.

We believe important steps have been taken to protect auditor independence, but we also believe more needs to be done. The Congress and the SEC have acted. Now we think it is important that shareholders use the enhanced disclosure to protect the integrity of the financial reporting system.

Fee disclosures indicate that our Company paid the firm retained to audit the Company’s financial statements more for non-audit services than for the audit work. Specifically, our Company paid more in combined fees for “audit-related,” “tax” and “all other” work performed by the audit firm than it did for the “audit” work performed by the firm. We believe this imbalance is unhealthy and a potential threat to auditor independence at our Company. Further, when this imbalance occurs we believe it is time for the Board’s Audit Committee to adopt a policy that addresses the issue.
Our resolution presents a straightforward and effective response: The Board and the Audit Committee should adopt a policy that limits the public accounting firm retained to audit the Company’s financial statements to performing only “audit” and “audit-related” work. We believe that limiting the audit to providing only audit and audit-related services would be another positive step in protecting auditor independence.