



**Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants**  
Nevada CPA Foundation for Education and Research  
750 Sandhill Road, Ste 120 | Reno | Nevada | 89521  
P: (775) 826-6800 | F: (775) 826-7942 | 1(800) 554-8254

February 22, 2010

The Honorable Shelley Berkley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
405 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4708

Dear Congresswoman Berkley:

On behalf of the 1600 members of Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants, we are writing to ask for your support for H.R. 4410, which would require that the Comptroller General position be filled by a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA). The bill was introduced on December 18, 2009, by Representatives Colin Peterson and Mike Conaway, and we hope that you will add your support as a co-sponsor to the bill.

We believe that the Comptroller General's position as the head of the Government Accountability Office is important to our country's financial and operational well-being, and warrants having a CPA at the helm. Significantly:

- The office of Comptroller General has been vacant since March 2008 when former Comptroller General David Walker, a CPA, resigned after nine and half years in office to become president of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. The previous Comptroller General, Charles Bowsher, appointed in 1981, was also a CPA.
- The Comptroller General is the top auditor of the U.S. government. Just as Congress requires that every publicly-traded company be audited by a CPA, the agency that audits the Federal government's financial statements should be led by a CPA to ensure the transparency and integrity of our government's financial records.
- The GAO has been called the U.S. taxpayers' best friend for its work in uncovering waste, fraud and abuse. The agency employs more than 3,000 people with an annual budget exceeding \$500 million. Members of Congress use the GAO to conduct audits and investigations of Federal programs and agencies. Hundreds of GAO reports issued annually, both mandated by Congress and self-initiated, are an invaluable tool for the public, journalists, policy advocates and lawmakers. CPAs, with their broad financial, business, and investigative background, are uniquely qualified not only to oversee audits, but also to identify and recommend improvements in performance and accountability of Federal programs.
- The office of Comptroller General should be filled by a person with the strongest possible qualifications, be an advocate for taxpayers, and a proper steward of Federal resources. The training, discipline, commitment to objectivity, and integrity that define a CPA, and the public confidence that the credential instills, will further solidify the GAO's reputation for impartial, thoughtful analysis and guarantee that this agency will fulfill its mission as Congress's watchdog for the benefit of the American people.

With your support, we firmly believe that we can enhance the effectiveness of the GAO by requiring the Comptroller General position to be filled by a Certified Public Accountant. This is extremely important in



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normal times; in this time of significant economic stress, it is even more critical. We are hopeful that you will co-sponsor H.R. 4410.

Please call on the Nevada Society of CPAs whenever we can be a resource to you and your staff. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael E. Davis  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Neilon". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large 'N' and 'O'.

Nicola Neilon  
Legislation Committee Chair

cc: Sharon Uithoven, Executive Director