

EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
10th District, New York

ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
HEALTH  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND  
THE INTERNET  
COMMERCE, TRADE, AND  
CONSUMER PROTECTION

GOVERNMENT REFORM  
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
BANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3210

January 12, 2006

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The Honorable Christopher Cox  
Chairman  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express my concern about a proposed rule change that raises significant market structure public policy issues. On July 11, 2005, NASD filed with the Commission a proposed rule change that will ostensibly create a new NASD subsidiary, the Trade Reporting Facility ("TRF").

While the TRF is being proposed as a subsidiary of the NASD, in fact it is a facility of Nasdaq, because Nasdaq controls and reaps the economic benefits of the TRF. This would appear to be in contravention of the law's requirement that an exchange not take credit for trades that do not occur on that exchange.

In addition, should the NASD's proposal be approved, other markets would likely be forced by competitive pressures to enter into similar arrangements with the NASD to gain revenues for trades that have no connection with those markets, exacerbating the problem.

There is a better solution: make the TRF in fact a facility of the NASD by correcting the problems outlined above. This would clear the way for Nasdaq to become an exchange in the best interests of the integrity and continued robust competition of the U.S. marketplace.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress

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