



February 14, 2012

The Honorable Stephen Fincher
U.S. House of Representatives
1118 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Fincher:

We applaud your efforts to sponsor H.R. 3606, legislation that would promote job creation and economic growth by making it easier for companies to access capital while at the same time promoting transparency for investors.

As you know, a vibrant “initial public offering” (IPO) market is critical for job creation and economic growth in the United States. This legislation will smooth the IPO road for America’s most talented emerging growth companies. This legislation will also revitalize an engine that has proven to be very important to the United States economy. United States IPO market has had a sharp decline over the last 15 years. The pre-1999 average for IPOs was 547 per year. After 1999 the United States averaged merely 192 IPOs per year. The lowest was 45 IPOs in 2008. As you know, on average, 92 percent of a company’s job growth is post-IPO.

Many of these challenges have come from increased regulation making IPOs more costly. The average cost to go public is \$2.5 million and the annual cost to stay public is \$1.5 million. This legislation is a good start in an effort to help facilitate more IPOs and to put our country back on a path to global competitiveness.

We strongly support H.R. 3606 and the companion legislation in the Senate S. 1933 sponsored by Senators Schumer and Toomey. We strongly urge the House Financial Services Committee to vote for this bill and we thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ken Bentsen", is displayed within a rectangular frame.

Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr.
EVP, Public Policy and Advocacy