

April 9, 2002

Opening Statement for Congressman Paul E. Gillmor
Committee on Financial Services
Full Committee Legislative Hearing on HR 3763, the Corporate and Auditing
Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency Act of 2002- Day 3

I would like to again applaud Chairman Oxley and Subcommittee Chairman Baker for taking the initiative on this important issue and working so swiftly and diligently to introduce, HR 3763 “the Corporate and Auditing Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency Act of 2002 (CAARTA).” I am an original cosponsor of this legislation and look forward to swift committee action on this measure.

I look forward to hearing the witnesses’ opinions this morning and welcome this opportunity to hear a comparison of HR 3818 and HR 3763. Further discussion on the underlying issues addressed by CAARTA will serve to strengthen the final version of this legislation to be approved by this committee.

I always have been a firm believer in increased management responsibility and accountability to both its shareholders and the American public. On February 13th, I introduced HR 3745, “the Corporate Charitable Disclosure Act of 2002 (CCDA).” The CCDA would require corporations to make publicly available, each year, the total value of contributions that they made to non-profit organizations during the previous fiscal year. As the collapse of Enron has made painfully clear, corporate disclosure rules need to be revisited and the legislation being considered today is an important first step in this process.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman Oxley for holding this series of hearings and look forward to the upcoming markup of this important piece of legislation. The systemic problems made clear through the investigation of Enron’s collapse cannot remain unaddressed.