

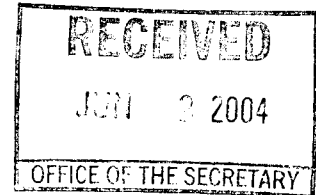
ES107395

417

S7-10-04

February 21, 2004

Mr. William Donaldson  
Chairman  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
450 Fifth Street  
NW Washington, DC 20549



RE: Proposed Changes to the "Trade Through Rule"

Dear Chairman Donaldson:


This letter is written in support of the current requirements that broker-dealers and mutual fund managers be required to obtain as a first priority the best price for their clients.

As a small investor with an account at Merrill Lynch, it is my request that any licensed securities representative be at all times required to seek the best price when purchasing or selling any security for my account, and never be allowed to put their own interest ahead of my own.

I ask that the SEC redouble its efforts to protect my investment interests, by vigorously enforcing the current rule and restraints as required by the "Trade Through Rule" and to take whatever additional measures are necessary to guarantee the full protection of my investment interests; interests, which are no doubt primary in the active pursuit of the best price at all times - wherever and on whatever Exchange they may be found.

Thanking you in advance for your serious consideration of this most urgent request, I remain...

Sincerely,

  
Edward Torres  
1197 N. Via Monte Vista  
Palm Springs, CA 92262