



THE CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

April 15, 2011

The Honorable John Culberson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2352 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Culberson:

Thank you for your letter dated March 16, 2011 regarding the Stanford Group Company ("SGC"). Your letter raised concerns about the length of time it has taken the Commission to determine whether investors who purchased certificates of deposit that were issued by Stanford International Bank, an affiliate of SGC, are eligible for protection under the Securities Investor Protection Act ("SIPA").

I assure you that the SEC is taking the situation of the Stanford Victims Coalition ("SVC") members, and all other Stanford victims, very seriously, and is investigating closely their status under SIPA. Commission staff, which has already devoted substantial time and effort on this issue, is striving to complete, as soon as possible, its investigation and review of the relevant facts relating to the Stanford case with a view to determining whether a legal basis exists for a SIPA liquidation of SGC. As part of this review, the staff has reviewed the Declarations prepared by Karyl Van Tassel, the receiver's forensic accountant, and has interviewed Ms. Van Tassel to ensure that the staff has a thorough understanding of her findings. In addition, I and Commission staff have separately met with representatives of the SVC and other Stanford victims on multiple occasions to discuss this matter. We also have been reviewing documents relevant to the investigation, including account information received from the SVC. I expect that the Commission will make a final decision on whether Securities Investor Protection Corporation should initiate a SIPA proceeding as soon as all this information has been thoroughly reviewed, which should occur in the near future.

Thank you again for your letter. Please call me at (202) 551-2100 or have your staff call Eric J. Spitler, Director of the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 551-2010 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

  
Mary L. Schapiro  
Chairman