May 17, 2016

To the Director of Research and Technical Activities
Project No. 3-24E
Governmental Accounting Standards Board
401 Merritt 7, P.O. Box 5116
Norwalk, Connecticut 06856-5116

First, the Governmental Executive Committee (Committee) would like to express its appreciation to the Board’s members and staff for considering our comments in response to the “Exposure Draft of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board on major issues related to Leases.” We are generally supportive of the Board’s effort to improve clarity and transparency of financial reporting by utilizing a uniform model for lease reporting.

In reviewing the current Exposure Draft, the Committee identified several concerns that the Board should consider before the final pronouncement is issued, as follows:

- The complexity of applying the new standard on smaller local government units will be a significant burden on those entities.
- Compliance with debt covenants could be impacted with the recording of the additional liabilities on the financial statements.
- The recording of the lease receivable along with the retention of the underlying asset gives the appearance of inflating the lessor’s assets.
- Addition of the deferred inflows and outflows to the statement of position may lessen the statements impact, as the complexity may cause users (Board members, constituents and the general public) to discount the entire statement.

The Committee also identified the following possible additions and modifications to the statement that we thought would facilitate understanding, as follows:

- An appendix should be included to provide examples of the lease accounting for both the lessee and lessor under both the economic resources measurement focus as well as the current financial resources models to clearly identify the methodology to be applied in all the above situations.
- Paragraph 8 seems to be redundant. Whatever is currently stated in this paragraph can also be found in the Table of Contents.
• Paragraph 12 – suggest adding a flowchart to illustrate the decision-making factors in determining and reassessing lease term.
• Paragraph 56 – Appendix C, Flowchart for Allocation of Consideration to Multiple Components should be referred here. Otherwise, Appendix C could be removed and just added to the flowchart as initially shown in the Preliminary Views.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to offer our comments to the Board.

Sincerely,

Christine Torres, CPA
Chair, Governmental Executive Committee
APPENDIX A

ILLINOIS CPA SOCIETY
GOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATION AND OPERATING PROCEDURES
2016-2017

The Governmental Executive Committee of the Illinois CPA Society (Committee) is composed of the following technically qualified, experienced members appointed from government and public accounting. These members have Committee service ranging from newly appointed to more than 30 years. The Committee is an appointed senior technical committee of the Society and has been delegated the authority to issue written positions representing the Society on matters regarding the setting of governmental accounting and auditing standards. The Committee’s comments reflect solely the views of the Committee, and do not purport to represent the views of their business affiliations.

The Committee usually operates by assigning Subcommittees of its members to study and discuss fully exposure documents proposing additions or revisions of accounting standards. The Subcommittee ordinarily develops a proposed response that is considered, discussed, and voted on by the full Committee. Support by the full Committee then results in the issuance of a formal response, which at times, includes a minority viewpoint.

Current members of the Committee and their business affiliations are as follows:

Public Accounting/Professional Service Firms:
- Linda Abernethy, CPA RSM USA LLP
- Angela Allen, CPA Washington, Pittman & McKeever, LLC
- Julie Barrientos, CPA KPMG LLP
- John Blackburn, CPA Swartztrauber & Co.
- Jason Coyle, CPA Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
- John Epperson, CPA Miller Cooper & Company Ltd.
- Ed McCormick, CPA Mulcahy, Pauritsch, Salvador & Co. Ltd.
- Deborah Ringer, CPA Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP
- Michelle Ringold, CPA Ringold Financial Management Services, Inc.
- Leilani Rodrigo, CPA E C Ortiz & Co. LLP
- Moises Sanchez, CPA Deloitte LLP
- James Savio, CPA Sikich LLP
- Colin Thompson, CPA Legacy Professionals LLP
- Christine Torres, CPA (Chair) Crowe Horwath LLP
- Sheila Weinberg, CPA Institute for Truth in Accounting

Government/Others:
- Abiola Bankole-Hameed, CPA National Black MBA Association, Inc.
- Duffy Blackburn, CPA The County of Will
- Joan Li, CPA Northern Trust
- John Norton, CPA Oak Park Township
- Daniel Nugent, CPA State of Illinois Office of the Auditor General
- Kenneth Oliven, CPA Village of Alsip
- William Schmidt, CPA Skokie Park District
- Douglas Tinch, CPA Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services
- Rita Trainor, CPA Wheaton Park District
- Alise White, CPA Illinois State Board of Investments

Staff Representative:
- Gayle Floresca, CPA Illinois CPA Society