

January 12th, 2015

Ronald W. Smith,
Corporate Secretary
Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board
1900 Duke Street, Suite 600
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Financial Industry Regulation Authority (FINRA)
Los Angeles Office
300 South Grand Ave., 16th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Re: Regulatory Notice: 2014-20
Request for Comment on Draft Rule Amendments to Require Dealers to Provide
Pricing Reference Information on Retail Customer Confirmations.

Dear Mr. Smith, et al.,

My name is Karin Tex, a retiree, and a life-time resident of California and a Citizen of the United States.

In my retirement, I have invested in municipal bonds; but I was unaware that unlike stocks, municipal bonds disclosure rules for transactions are very different. A municipal bond confirmation does not need to state the commission/mark up amount. **I know.....shocking in this day and age....especially with the evolution of sophisticated computer systems.** Disclosure of a municipal bond commission or markup to the general public should be mandatory.

According to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board Annual Report 2013, the Municipal Bonds Marketplace is a: \$3.7 Trillion Dollar Market. There are millions of retirees, who invest in the municipal bonds, expect full disclosure and transparency in retail municipal bond transactions. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the municipal bond market generates Tens (10s) of Billions of dollars in commission per year for brokerage firms. **This should not be at the expense of retirees/seniors who have limited income.**

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With such a vast municipal bond market, it is impossible for retirees/seniors to solely trust their financial advisors. A municipal bond transaction must be confirmed on a confirmation statement indicating the commission or markup amount that was charged to a retail customer. It is imperative that this is done!

It is puzzling that it has taken this long to acknowledge this deficiency in the reporting process to retail customers by the various regulatory agencies. It is obvious according to many articles written about this problem – which has been ongoing. I am attaching herewith several articles that outline this existing problem. [Please see attached.]

Seniors/Retirees and other retail investors alike look forward to full commission/markup disclosure by municipal bond dealers. It will make the municipal bond market more honest and responsible. This will solve a huge problem.

I hope and pray that the Regulatory Powers act quickly implementing full disclosure of commissions/markups upon municipal bond dealers/brokerage firms for the benefit of all retail customers.

Best regards,



Karin Tex

KT/cs

Encl:

Service List

1. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
Los Angeles Regional Office
Michele Wein Layne, Regional Director
444 Flower Street, Suite 900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: (323) 965 3998

2. Sen. Dianne Feinstein
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880 Front Street, Suite 3296
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3. Sen. Barbara Boxer
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4. Rep. Susan Davis – U.S. 53rd District
San Diego Office
2700 Adams Ave., Suite 102
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Tel: (619) 280 5353

5. San Diego Union Tribune
350 Camino de la Reina
San Diego, CA 92108
Tel: (800) 533 8830

The articles referenced as attached in the comment letter are not reprinted here, and are as follows:

“If you own bonds, you could be getting ripped off,” Bloomberg

“Muni-bond purchase fees sting retirees” [name of publication not provided in article]