



For Immediate Release

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**Press Contacts:**

**Bruce F. Freed,**  
Center for Political Accountability  
301-233-3621  
bffreed@politicalaccountability.net

Meg Wilcox  
Ceres  
617-247-0700 x 148  
Wilcox@ceres.org

## **CPA Receives Ceres Award for Its Pioneering Achievements in Corporate Political Accountability**

Washington -- The Center for Political Accountability received yesterday a prestigious award from Ceres and Trillium Asset Management for its pioneering work to establish corporate political disclosure and accountability.

The Center won the Joan Bavaria Innovation Award, named for a pioneer of social investing who founded Ceres and Trillium. Bavaria awards for innovation and for impact are given annually to honor leaders whose work advances capital markets toward a system that balances economic prosperity with social and environmental concerns.

Ceres is the largest coalition of investors, environmental and public interest organizations in North America, with members united to advance corporate responsibility. The coalition engages directly with companies on environmental and social issues. The CPA is a member.

"Investors have long observed with great frustration the disproportionate influence of corporations in the political process," said Cheryl Smith, president of Trillium Asset Management Corp. "CPA has been groundbreaking in advancing how corporate political contributions are brought into the light."

The judges for the Bavaria Awards spotlighted the importance of the CPA's work in light of the Supreme Court's recent *Citizens United v. FEC* decision which removed all but a handful of restraints on political spending by companies.

Announcement of the Bavaria Award further enhanced the CPA's profile at a time of intense national debate over corporate political disclosure. It also underscored the innovative approach at the heart of CPA's work, which has built strong momentum for corporate disclosure and accountability.

The CPA founder and president Bruce F. Freed accepted the award during the Ceres annual conference in Boston.

"We are honored to receive the Bavaria Award for Innovation for the Center's groundbreaking work on political disclosure and accountability," Freed said.

"Seven years ago, political disclosure was not on the radar screen of companies. Today, leading companies consider it a corporate governance standard. This success is shared with the Center's partners, whose hard work has helped us achieve our goals."

Ceres is widely acclaimed for its vision and impact achieved in just 20 years since its founding, shortly after the Exxon-Valdez oil spill. Its best-known successes include launching the [Global Reporting Initiative](#) (GRI), now the de-facto international standard used by more than 1,300 companies for corporate reporting on environmental, social and economic performance; and launching and directing the [Investor Network on Climate Risk](#) (INCR), a group of more than 70 leading institutional investors with collective assets of more than \$7 trillion.

CPA launched in 2003 its initiative to bring transparency and accountability to corporate

political spending. As of April, its work has successfully moved half of the companies in the trend-setting S&P 100 Index, and 75 companies in the broader S&P 500 Index, to adopt disclosure and board oversight policies for political spending.

### **ABOUT THE CENTER FOR POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Center for Political Accountability is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group whose mission is to bring transparency and accountability to corporate political spending.

Website: [www.politicalaccountability.net](http://www.politicalaccountability.net)

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Center for Political Accountability | 1233 20th St. NW | Suite 205 | Washington | DC | 20036

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