August 30, 2005

Mr. Robert King and Mr. Brian Allison  
Co-Chairs, Electronic Standards Committee  
National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs  
1100 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
12th Floor  
Washington, D.C.  20036-4110

Dear Mr. King and Mr. Allison,

Thank you for your submission (dated August 19, 2005) to the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) of the Common Record: CommonLine (CRC) data exchange format developed through the Electronic Standards Committee (ESC) of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP). As stated, your objective is that CRC become an approved and recognized education standard.

As you know, ESC, the Standards Forum for Education, and the entire education community have worked closely over the past few years to develop an objective, sound process for approving standards. With that in mind, as certain steps within PESC’s process of approving a candidate are already satisfied, CRC is immediately ready for public comment. PESC will post all CRC documentation (and/or links) on its website on Thursday September 1, 2005 and hold a 30-day public comment period. Comments will be submitted to the PESC office and routed to your attention to address and resolve within the ESC and in cooperation with the Standards Forum’s Change Control Board (CCB). Once the public comment period is over and all issues are resolved, we will then present CRC for vote by PESC Members and for ratification by the PESC Board of Directors.

The need and development of standards and their implementation must originate in the sector that exchanges those standards as this is where the business process expertise lies. ESC represents a strong segment of expertise, and we encourage you to continue your leadership role in actively identifying areas where cost containment and improved customer service can be achieved through standards.

Congratulations to you and the entire ESC for the years of work you have conducted to improve the delivery of student aid data. You continue to reach significant milestones and the education community owes you thanks.

As always, I look forward to working with you, ESC, and the education community. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me directly at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Sessa  
Executive Director  
PESC