



The Census Project

April 6, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary of U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Room 5516
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

We are writing to you as members of the Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), a collaboration of state and local governments, civil rights and labor groups, housing and child advocates, businesses, and research organizations interested in a fair and accurate Census 2010. Our coalition congratulates you on your recent confirmation as Secretary of Commerce and looks forward to working with you and your staff.

First, we thank you for your recent supportive remarks regarding the Census Bureau. Further, we were pleased you attended the March 30 National Partner Briefing in Washington, DC. With only one year before Census Day, we feel your continued positive, visible leadership is critical to launching a successful Census 2010. In this vein, we ask that you make adequate funding and Administration support for the Census Bureau a top priority.

As you know, to date, funding for the 2010 Decennial Census has not been at levels comparable to Census 2000. Money from the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) should help address many of the agency's recent funding shortfalls. However, plans are still evolving and time is running short. Ongoing communications activities to promote participation in Census 2010, especially targeted in hard-to-count communities, and a national canvassing operation to verify all home addresses in the United States, must be conducted successfully **this year** if we expect high-level participation next year.

The outcome of the next census will determine the reapportionment of Congress and distribution of over \$400 billion in federal funds. We need to know that decisions this important are based on an accurate and complete census count for all of these compelling reasons, we ask you to ensure the Census Bureau receives sufficient funding to conduct a successful Census 2010.

As the new Secretary of Commerce, we know you will encourage the swift confirmation of Robert Groves as the new Census Bureau Director. He is an excellent choice. The Census Bureau needs an experienced director who can supervise the complex work plan to ensure a complete and accurate Census 2010. We also hope you will move ahead with the prompt appointment of other key Census staff, including the Assistant Director for Communications and Chief of Congressional Affairs.

Once again, thank you for demonstrating your early interest and commitment to the Census Bureau. We appreciate your service to our nation.

Sincerely,

American Statistical Association

Arab American Institute Foundation

Asian American Justice Center

Consortium of Social Science Association

Japanese American Citizens League

The Marketing Research Association

Mayor Antonio R. Villaragosa

Michigan Census Council

Linda Loubert, PhD, Morgan State University

Louis Kincannon, former U. S. Census Director

National Association of the Advancement of Colored People

National Institute for Latino Policy

New York City Office of Federal Affairs

Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) National Center

Population Resource Center

The Population Association of America & Association of Population Centers