



The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby:

The URISA Board of Directors strongly supports full funding for the US Census Bureau in Fiscal Year 2007. Our members rely on the quality and accuracy of the information generated by the Census Bureau.

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) is a non-profit professional and educational association of 2,800 geospatial professionals in the United States and Canada. US census data are vital for our members in supporting many national business/economic, political, and safety functions including:

- Drawing state legislative boundaries;
- Evaluating the success of programs or identifying populations in need of services;
- Identifying and understanding population characteristics for disaster preparedness and homeland security;
- Developing socioeconomic indicators to support analysis of transportation, land use, housing, migration, crime, and urban poverty related programs and applications.
- Conducting research and educating students.

Every congressperson and senator benefits by having an accurate count of constituents in their district every time they go to the microphone to speak to an issue in Congress. They can pose better arguments for projects in their districts with detailed demographic information that will come from sections of the programs that will be eliminated with these proposed cuts.

In addition to meeting our Constitutional mandate, an accurate census increases the efficiency of resource utilization for targeted population groups. A full and complete census saves us more money than it costs, and it benefits business, government, and the people.

The proposed funding cut, particularly in a critical planning year such as 2007, will jeopardize many of the Bureau's activities including:

- The American Community Survey (ACS)
- 2007 Economic Census
- Master Address File maintenance
- Use of GPS equipped handheld devices for unresponsive households
- Realignment of Census' TIGER files
- 2008 Dress Rehearsal in California and North Carolina
- Awarding contracts for 2010 census promotion and other census preparations

**In summary, the approval of the original requested funding is of utmost importance to the quality of 2010 Census. Therefore, we urge you in conference to fully restore the funds cut by the House and by the Senate Appropriations Committee, and to oppose any proposals that would further reduce the total to pay for other programs within the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations account.**

Sincerely,

Cindy Domenico, Board President  
And the URISA Board of Directors

Ed Wells  
Dianne Haley  
Kathrine Cargo  
Allen Ibaugh  
Eric Bohard  
Ingrid Bruce  
Shoreh Elhami  
Stephen Kinzy  
Lisa Lubeley  
Zhong-Ren Peng  
Cy Smith