



July 23, 2007

Honorable Alan Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
Committee on Appropriations
H-309 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mollohan:

As members of the Census Project, a collaboration of organizations representing cities and towns, civil rights interests, business/industry, housing and child advocates, and scientists, we are writing to express our concern about full funding for the U.S. Census Bureau's FY 2008 budget request. We were pleased by, and we supported, additional monies designated by the subcommittee for the Community Partnerships program. This program is vital to the Bureau's efforts to reach the hard-to-count populations in the decennial census.

The recent full committee markup on the Census Bureau budget included a \$30 million cutback in funding that the Bureau indicates it would be forced to take from funds to support various aspects of the Economic Census. We think this is a mistake and urge Congress to restore the funding.

Further, past history indicates that there may be amendments offered during full House debate that would cut back various elements of the FY 2008 funding for the decennial. We urge you to oppose any amendments that reduce funding for the decennial. As you know, decennial census data are used to determine program eligibility and the allocation of federal dollars. The latest figures from the Brookings Institution indicate that at least \$306 billion of federal funds were distributed to states and localities in FY 2004 based in whole or in part on census data or data derived from the census.

In conclusion, we realize the tight budget constraints that Congress is operating under this year. However, the decennial census is the linchpin of the federal statistical system. Statistical data from the census allows us to properly allocate and spend funds for more than 75 major government programs. Full funding for the Census Bureau's FY 2008 budget request, plus the additional monies allocated by the subcommittee for the partnership program, is required to ensure that the planning for the nation's next census continues on a path that counts everybody in a fair and accurate way.

Sincerely,

American Sociological Association

Asian American Justice Center

Arab American Institute

A project of the Communications Consortium Media Center

Dr. Michael White
President
Association of Population Centers

Leonard M. Gaines
President
Association of Public Data Users

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council for Marketing and Opinion Research

Edward J. Spar
Executive Director
Council of Professional Associations on
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Japanese American Citizens League

Linda Loubert, Ph.D.
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Morgan State University

National Association of Counties

National Association of Latino Elected and
Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational
Fund

R. Keith Hite
President
National Association of Towns and
Townships (NATaT)

National Low Income Housing Coalition
Doug Bibby
President
National Multi Housing Council

Organization of Chinese Americans

Dr. Barbara Entwisle
President
Population Association of America

Patricia C. Becker
Executive Director
Southeast Michigan Census Council

Urban and Regional Information Systems
Association Board of Directors