



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

October 9, 2007

The Honorable Henry Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

Thank you for your letter of October 2, 2007, expressing your concern over the impact of the six-week Continuing Resolution (CR) on the 2010 Decennial Census.

The Administration's goal is to conduct a highly accurate count of the population in 2010, and has consistently supported the Census Bureau in its mission to be the leading source of quality data about the Nation's people and economy. This sustained support is evidenced by the President's 2008 budget request of \$1.23 billion for the Bureau, a \$337 million increase over the 2007 enacted level. \$797 million of this request is for the 2010 program. This funding is required to conduct the 2008 Dress Rehearsal, continue development of data processing and data capture systems for field operations, and begin to open and staff regional offices.

It is therefore unfortunate that the Congress did not pass the FY 2008 appropriation bill for the Department of Commerce before the end of the fiscal year. In his August letter to the House and Senate appropriators, Secretary Gutierrez stressed the importance of passing a fiscally responsible bill on time to allow the Commerce Department to continue priority programs without interruption, including preparations to ensure a highly accurate 2010 Decennial Census.

Since that did not occur, the Census Bureau is currently assessing the impact of a continuing resolution through November 16th. As I understand it, the Bureau's overriding goal is to ensure the Nation has a successful count in 2010, and therefore its priority under the constrained spending environment is to ensure that the most critical activities continue. Chief among those priorities is the testing of handheld computers and other data collection and processing systems in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal. While the Census Bureau will have to make some tough choices, we are confident the Bureau can manage its resources to ensure both a vigorous test of the program in 2008 and a successful actual census in 2010 – that is, assuming Congress does its job and provides the funding the President requested for the Bureau, as part of a responsible appropriations bill, without further delay. In the meantime, the Office of Management and Budget is supporting the Bureau's efforts by providing as much flexibility in the availability of resources as possible under the law.

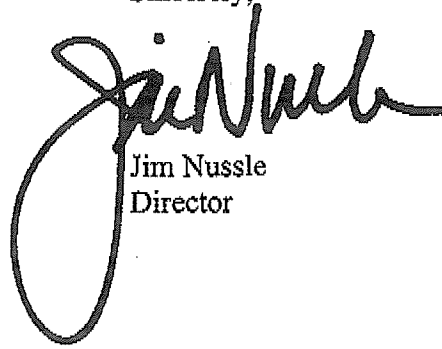
However, the Census Bureau's careful management effort will be wasted if it is not soon provided a year-long appropriation that brings stability to its funding and planning. I again urge you and your colleagues to quickly pass a full-year funding bill that meets the President's

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priorities to contain spending, encourage economic growth, and balance the budget by 2012. To not do so would only add risk to the 2010 Census.

Thank you again for your interest in the 2010 Decennial Census, and for taking the time to communicate your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Nussle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Jim Nussle
Director

Identical Letter Sent to The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay; The Honorable Carolyn Maloney; The Honorable John Yarmuth; The Honorable Paul Hodes and The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger