

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to ask that you fill the current high-level vacancies at the U.S. Census Bureau in a timely manner, with qualified non-partisan candidates who will lead the census in this critical time. As we are just over three years away from the next decennial census, it is imperative that the preparation efforts for 2010 are not interrupted by this change in leadership. Much planning and implementation must take place imminently, and we need to ensure that the resignations of Director C. Louis Kincannon and Deputy Director Hermann Habermann do not have a detrimental effect on the 2010 census.

As you are well aware, the decennial census is the federal government's largest peacetime expenditure. As good stewards of federal tax dollars, we want to make sure that the money that we have invested in this massive operation will be appropriately spent to ensure the most accurate census possible. Our constitution mandates a census of the American population, and it is essential that we fulfill this mandate to the best of our ability. Government at all levels uses census data to formulate education, housing, social services, and transportation policies. Many businesses rely on the census to project economic growth. We as policymakers rely on data from the census to formulate our policies, as well as to determine Congressional reapportionment.

We are at a crucial time in the decennial census budget cycle. The Census Bureau is still finalizing the content of the survey, designing a marketing strategy, implementing new technology, opening hundreds of regional census offices, and hiring hundreds of thousands of temporary workers. There are two major field tests scheduled for 2008. These major operations could be hindered if the Census Bureau is without leadership for much longer.

It is also important to appoint a new Director and Deputy Director who will fight to preserve adequate funding for the census. We cannot ensure an adequate count of the American population without sufficient funds. Both chambers of Congress underfunded census activities for FY2007. If the census is not fully funded, the accuracy and completeness of the count will be compromised. Therefore, we must appoint people who can convey the necessity of full funding to legislators.

As you consider the options for these two positions, we ask that you maintain the tradition of previous Presidential appointments in choosing non-partisan individuals of the highest qualification who are well-regarded in the scientific community. The census is not a partisan activity. It benefits all Americans to have an accurate enumeration of the population. We also

urge you to expedite these appointments. The longer that the Census Bureau is without leadership, the further we jeopardize the essential preparation efforts leading up to the decennial count.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

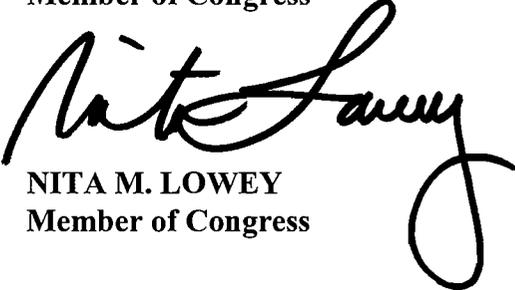

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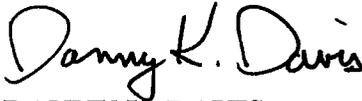

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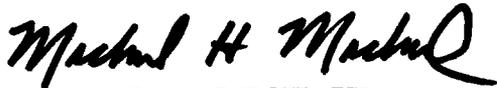
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