

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 13, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

We write to urge the Committee to restore the Administration's requested funding level for the Census Bureau in the FY 2012 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill. The Subcommittee's recommendation of \$855.4 million represents a drastic 25 percent reduction from the Census Bureau's FY 2011 spending level, threatening a number of critical programs and mandates of the Census.

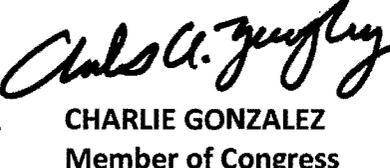
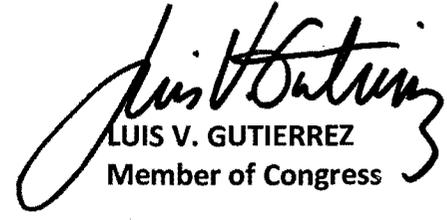
The proposed cuts jeopardize the Census Bureau's ability to conduct the 2012 Quinquennial Economic Census, which provides essential information on virtually all aspects of the nation's economic well-being, including a benchmark for the nation's fiscal reports, evaluations of the Gross Domestic Product, jobs data and economic activity across industries, and statistics on minority and women-owned businesses. A wide cross section of public and private sector decision-makers count on this thorough assessment of the nation's economic health, particularly at this critical moment when policymakers are faced with tough decisions to pave the way to economic recovery and job creation.

The reductions proposed in the Subcommittee mark up also would hamper the 2020 Census even as preparations are well underway and could jeopardize core functions and essential operations at an agency that has already taken steps to streamline operations and reduce costs. Cutting this critical funding as the agency prepares for the 2020 decennial count will undoubtedly result in wasted and unrecoverable costs down the road, as we have seen with the repeated operational crises that have plagued each of the last four censuses.

While we understand the difficult choices facing the Committee in the current fiscal environment, such choices illustrate the importance of having reliable, scientific economic statistics. We urge the Committee to restore the agency's funding to the Administration's FY12 request level so that this information can be used to chart a path

to economic recovery and the Census Bureau can fulfill its constitutionally mandated and essential function.

Sincerely,

 CAROLYN B. MALONEY Member of Congress	 CHARLIE GONZALEZ Member of Congress	 JUDY CHU Member of Congress
 ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON Member of Congress	 JOHN CONYERS, JR. Member of Congress	 LUIS V. GUTIERREZ Member of Congress