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April 30, 1991

The Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Robert:

Based on recent press reports, it appears that there has been an undercount of the Georgia population in an amount in excess of 200,000. I respectfully request that the Census numbers for the state of Georgia be readjusted to reflect the accurate population of the state so as to include the over 100,000 which were not previously included.

Needless to say, if the undercount is not corrected, it would have a serious negative impact on Georgia. For example, if the population is adjusted to reflect the 200,000, then Georgia would be entitled to an additional congressional seat. In addition, without the adjustment, minority voting strength in Georgia will be seriously diluted. Based on available information, without an adjustment to compensate for the undercount, minorities in Georgia could lose two State Senate seats and 4-5 House seats. As a result of conversations with black legislators, it is my understanding that they have not only concurred with this request, but stated that they believe it is required under the Voting Rights Act.

In addition to these repercussions, the failure to make an adjustment based upon the admitted undercount would seriously affect federal funding which Georgia receives. In effect, Georgia would be required to utilize funds to provide for an additional 200,000 for which it was not receiving funding.

Based on these factors, I strongly urge you to adjust Georgia's population figures to reflect the correct population. I would appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Newt Gingrich