



June 7, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As members of The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), a broad-based, nonpartisan group of stakeholders who rely on accurate, timely, and comprehensive data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and support data-driven decision making, we write to urge the prompt nomination of a new Census Bureau Director.

With Census 2020 only three years away, it is imperative that the Bureau have a highly qualified and respected director in place as soon as possible. As you know, preparations for Census 2020 are well underway with less than one year before a critical “dress rehearsal” of all decennial census innovations and procedures occurs in three areas of the United States. Failure to fill this vacancy quickly could jeopardize the success of this 2018 End-to-End Readiness Test, delay final design decisions and impair preparations for the 2020 Census. The Census Director also must oversee the conduct of the 2017 Economic Census, the source of all baseline data for our economic indicators and national income accounts, as well as efforts to strengthen and streamline the American Community Survey (ACS), which updates the census throughout the decade. Simply put, the need for strong, decisive leadership at the Census Bureau, particularly at this juncture, cannot be overstated.

The Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011 requires that the Census Bureau Director have “demonstrated ability in managing large organizations and experience in the collection, analysis, and use of statistical data.” As census stakeholders, we feel strongly that the next director should also be someone with visibility and stature in the statistical community, who has an ability to interact effectively with Congress, the Administration, and census stakeholders in the public and private sectors, and possess a thorough understanding of the National Academies’ Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency.

Decennial census data are central to our democracy, affecting not only apportionment and redistricting, but also the distribution of approximately \$600 billion in federal assistance to states and localities each year. Given the significance of the Bureau’s mission and the data it produces, the process for selecting for the next Director should continue the tradition of respecting the agency’s political independence, both in reality and perception, and to guard against diminished public confidence in the census process and outcome.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for considering our views. All of our organizations are happy to serve as resources to the Administration as you consider candidates to serve as the next U.S. Census Bureau Director.

Sincerely,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics		AK
American Educational Research Association		
American Planning Association		
American Sociological Association		
American Statistical Association		
Asian Americans Advancing Justice -AAJC		
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)		
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations		
Association of Population Centers		
Association of Public Data Users		
Center for Data Innovation		
Claritas	Ithaca	NY
Community Home Trust	Chapel Hill	NC
Consortium of Social Science Associations		
Cornell Program on Applied Demographics		NY
Council for Community and Economic Research		
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics		DC
Insights Association		
Laotian American National Alliance		
League of United Latin American Citizens		
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey and 2020 Census		MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations		MN
Minnesota State Demographic Center		MN
NALEO Educational Fund		
National Association for Business Economics		
National Association of Home Builders		
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development		
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)		
National Housing Conference		
National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP)		
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)		
Nazareth Housing Services	Pittsburgh	PA
New York City Department of City Planning	New York City	NY
Nielsen		
PathWays PA	Holmes	PA
PeopleForBikes		

Population Association of America		
Prison Policy Initiative		
Ramsey County, MN	St. Paul	MN
Research Advisory Services	Phoenix	AZ
RLS Demographics, Inc.		
Southeast Michigan Census Council	Detroit	MI
State Voices		
Tangible Consulting Services	Minneapolis	MN
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)		
Virginia Civic Engagement Table		VA

cc: The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
The Honorable Claire McCaskill, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs