



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Assistant Secretary for Legislative
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 15, 2007

The Honorable William Lacy Clay
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clay:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 2007, to Secretary Gutierrez expressing your concern over the impact of the six-week Continuing Resolution (CR) on the 2010 Decennial Census.

The Department of Commerce's goal is to conduct a highly accurate count of the population in 2010. We are committed to ensuring that the Census Bureau achieve 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.

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 Department to continue priority programs without interruption, including preparations to ensure a highly accurate 2010 Decennial Census.

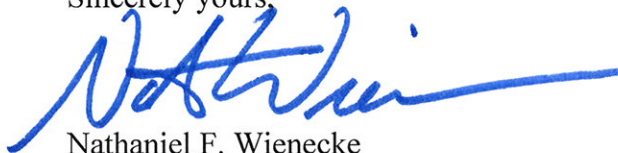
Since that did not occur, the Census Bureau is currently assessing the impact of a continuing resolution through November 16th. The Bureau's overriding goal is to ensure that the Nation has a successful count in 2010, and, therefore, its priority under the constrained spending environment is to ensure 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, the Bureau is working to manage its resources to ensure both a vigorous test of the program in 2008 and a successful actual census in 2010.

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To assist in that effort, the Department has transmitted a transfer notice to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to make approximately \$7 million from other bureaus available to the Census Bureau during the CR. These funds would be returned to the other bureaus once an FY 2008 appropriation bill is enacted.

Thank you again for your interest in the 2010 Decennial Census, and for taking the time to communicate your views. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nathaniel F. Wienecke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathaniel F. Wienecke

Enclosure