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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

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May 16, 2001

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The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
Fourteenth Street and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

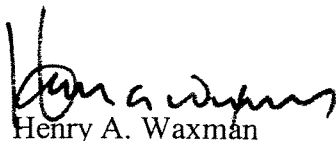
Dear Secretary Evans:

On April 6, 2001, I and 17 other members of the Government Reform Committee requested, pursuant to the Seven-Member Rule (5 U.S.C. § 2954), that the Commerce Department provide us the adjusted census data produced as part of the 2000 Decennial Census. We asked that the Department provide this information on or before April 20, 2001. To date, we have received no response to our request.

We have attempted to follow up on this request. On May 11, five weeks after issuance of the letter and three weeks past the deadline, a member of my staff left a voice message with Jim Schufreider in the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, asking for a call back with information on the status of the April 6 request. My staff received no response. On May 15, a member of my staff contacted Karen Swanson-Woolf, the Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. At her suggestion, he faxed her a copy of the April 6 letter and asked for a response by close of business. The next morning, on May 16, Colleen Smith called from the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. Although she claimed that the matter was under "active consideration" by the Office of General Counsel, she said that she could not specify a time when the Commerce Department would provide a definitive response to our request.

More than five weeks ago, we requested information that had already been compiled and could be readily produced. More than three weeks have passed since the information was supposed to be provided. We have given the Commerce Department more than a reasonable opportunity to respond to our request. If we do not receive a written response by the end of this week, we will conclude that the Commerce Department has made a decision not to respond.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member