



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
Washington, DC 20230

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

2

August 22, 2006

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF REGULATIONS
AND INTERPRETATIONS
2006 AUG 28 PM 2:19

Office of Regulations and Interpretations
Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)
Room N-5669
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

RE: *Federal Register* notice of July 21, 2006, on Form 5500, Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan (OMB Number: 1210-0110)

Attn: Revision of Form 5500 (RIN 1210-AB06)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Employee Benefits Security Administration form 5500. This form is our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Data from Schedules H (Financial Information) and I (Financial Information – Small Plan) are used to prepare estimates of employer contributions to private pension and profit-sharing plans; a component of compensation of employees in the national income and product accounts. These data are also used to prepare estimates of employee contributions to 401(k) savings plans, interest received by persons, and benefits paid by private pension and profit-sharing plans. We are also using data from Schedule B (Actuarial Information) in our research on pension plans.

Please keep BEA informed concerning any modifications to this form. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the forms approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, on 202-606-9653 or by e-mail at Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov. If you should need assistance in justifying this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician