



The Census Project

April 14, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman
Senate Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government
Information, Federal Services, and International Security
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper:

We are writing to you as members of the Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), a collaboration of state and local governments, civil rights and labor groups, housing and child advocates, businesses, and research organizations interested in a fair and accurate Census 2010.

We are writing to communicate our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Robert Groves as the next director of the U.S. Census Bureau. With less than one year before Census 2010, the Census Bureau needs a leader who not only has the scientific credentials to lead this complex operation, but also the experience to manage the Bureau's extensive staff and bureaucracy. Dr. Groves' impressive record of academic and professional experiences and accomplishments make him an ideal candidate for this position.

First, Dr. Groves is a highly respected leader in the social science and statistical community and one of the best-regarded and independent survey researchers in the country. As the director of the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, Survey Research Center, Dr. Groves has demonstrated the scientific capacity to develop and refine representative statistical surveys with national policy implications. In recognition of his scientific expertise, his peers have bestowed numerous honors on him, including the 2001 American Association for Public Opinion Research Innovator Award and the 2008 American Statistical Association Julius Shiskin Award for original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics. In addition, he has served on many national committees to evaluate programs and provide advice, including the National Science Foundation's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate Advisory

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Committee and the current National Research Council of the National Academies' review of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

In addition to his scientific qualifications, Dr. Groves has worked in the Census Bureau as a front-line employee and as a visiting scholar. During his tenure, Dr. Groves served with distinction as a research statistician and made key hiring decisions that brought reputable scholars to the Census Bureau. Given his unique experience, Dr. Groves is well positioned to understand the agency's inner workings, lead its staff, and be a national spokesperson for the 2010 Census and the agency's other equally important ongoing survey programs.

At this point in our nation's history, we believe the President has acted wisely in selecting Dr. Robert Groves to be the next Director of the U.S. Census Bureau. We hope your Committee and the U.S. Senate will follow suit by reviewing and approving his nomination in a fair and timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Statistical Association (OCA) National Center

American Planning Association

Asian American Justice Center

Association of Population Centers

Charles Louis Kincannon

Census Director 2002 – 2008

Census Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer 1982 – 1992

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Japanese American Citizens League

National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials

National Multi Housing Council

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) National Center

Population Association of America

Southeast Michigan Census Council

The US Conference of Mayors

cc: The Honorable Joe Lieberman
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable John McCain