



The Census Project

April 14, 2009

Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman

We, the undersigned former Directors of the U.S. Census Bureau who are familiar with the career of Robert M. Groves, want to endorse his nomination as the next Director and urge his speedy confirmation.

It is a plus that Dr. Groves has had experience at the Census Bureau, where he was brought in to reinvigorate the Statistical Methods Division. He built a strong research team who did much of the early research for improving the 2000 census. He came to the Census Bureau under the condition that the Bureau would provide positions in his division for him to recruit a small number of research specialists from academic institutions, other federal statistical agencies, and from within the Census Bureau for his team. Everyone he asked to join that team considered it a career plus to join him.

Dr. Groves is a nonpartisan, academic researcher who has focused much of his research on non-response to household surveys and survey error, has published three of the most-cited textbooks and numerous journal articles on survey research, and has mentored many graduate students who now staff most of the major academic and private sector survey organizations in the field. As Director of the University of Michigan's prestigious Survey Research Center/Institute of Social Research, he is one of the half dozen most highly regarded survey research methodologists not only in the United States but in the world.

As you know, time is short, and his speedy confirmation can help achieve a 2010 census that is as accurate as possible.

Sincerely,

Charles Louis Kincannon (2002–2008)

Kenneth Prewitt (1998-2001)

Martha Farnsworth Riche (1994–1998)

Barbara Everitt Bryant (1989-1993)

John G. Keane (1984–1989)

Vincent Barabba (1973-1976; 1979-1981)