



The Census Project

February 2, 2009

Hon. Rahm Emanuel
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Emanuel:

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

As you may know, many warnings about the bureau's state of un-readiness have been issued by expert review groups, members of Congress, and interested advocates. In fact, Congressional investigators named the 2010 census as one of 13 issues requiring President Obama's immediate attention.

As you know, the success of Census 2010 is contingent upon current nationwide planning operations. Without steady leadership at the Census Bureau, however, concerns about these operations linger. The Census Bureau needs an experienced director **now** who can assume responsibility immediately for oversight of the complex work plan that will ensure a complete and accurate Census 2010.

While we appreciate challenges facing the Administration at the Department of Commerce, we do not feel the appointment of a Census Bureau director should be delayed any longer. The Census Bureau needs strong, knowledgeable leadership this close to the 2010 decennial census. We encourage the White House to nominate a director, so the Senate can initiate the confirmation process and approve a nominee as soon as possible. Further, we encourage the Administration to nominate someone who has strong management expertise and intimate knowledge of all of the Bureau's programs and surveys and not just its decennial census operations.

Therefore, we are asking for a meeting with you to discuss appointment of a new Director of the Census Bureau. We believe that the new Administration must move quickly on this appointment since Census 2010 plans are entering the critical stages.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

American Sociological Association

American Statistical Association

Arab American Institute Foundation

Asian American Justice Center

Association of Community Organization for Reform Now (ACORN)

Association of Population Centers

Consortium of Social Science Association

Council of Professional Association on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)

Japanese American Citizens League

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa

Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Michigan Census Council

Linda Loubert, PhD, Morgan State University

National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials (NALEO)

National Congress of American Indians

National Institute for Latino Policy

National Multi Housing Council

New York City Office of Federal Affairs

Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) National Center

Population Resource Center

Population Association of America

Westat

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Joe Lieberman
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Thomas Carper
The Honorable Tom Coburn