



January 28, 2014

Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

On behalf of The Census Project's 600+ national, state, and local census stakeholders, we want to thank you for ensuring a reasonable funding level for the U.S. Census Bureau in the FY2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act, under difficult fiscal constraints. We also are pleased by the absence of report language that could have diminished the quality and availability of ACS data for all communities or hindered the Census Bureau's ability to evaluate the full range of promising new methods for a modern, accurate census.

As you know, in less than two years, the Census Bureau must complete a rigorous research and testing program for the 2020 Census (which includes the American Community Survey), and select a design framework that likely will incorporate several promising, but complex, new methodologies. We appreciate your recognition that investment in a comprehensive research program now will lead to significant savings in the lifecycle cost of the census. Thorough testing of operational improvements also will help build public understanding of, and confidence in, an innovative census design and the enumeration itself.

Again, we thank you and your staff for your attention to our concerns throughout the just-completed appropriations cycle. We look forward to continuing our work with you in support of an accurate 2020 Census and robust American Community Survey in the year ahead.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Hoeksema  
Co-Director

Terri Ann Lowenthal  
Co-Director

Phil Sparks  
Co-Director

A project of the Communications Consortium Media Center  
401 Ninth Street NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20004  
202.326.8700

[www.TheCensusProject.org](http://www.TheCensusProject.org)