



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 3, 2008

The Honorable Richard Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a draft bill to permit the transfer to the Bureau of the Census of monies available in any Department of Commerce appropriation to the extent necessary to further activities in support of the 2010 Decennial Census. This authority would be available for transfers of monies through September 30, 2008.

Execution of the Decennial Census is a complex task involving the largest peacetime mobilization of human resources in the United States. To address some of the challenges of carrying out an accurate and effective Decennial Census, at the beginning of the decade the Census Bureau developed plans to leverage technology for Census operations. Unfortunately, this project is experiencing significant schedule, performance, and cost issues, which the Department is addressing.

As a result, to ensure that we provide the Nation with the best possible Decennial Census, the Department of Commerce is making changes in our plans that will involve significant and previously unforeseen additional costs. In order to facilitate funding these additional costs, the Department of Commerce is proposing that the Congress pass the enclosed legislation.

We have been advised by the Office of Management and Budget that enactment would be consistent with the program of the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos M. Gutierrez".

Carlos M. Gutierrez

Enclosure

IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member

The Honorable Dave Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: The Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member