

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Rogers  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, and Science  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, and Science  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, and Science  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, and Science  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Cartwright, Chair Shaheen, and Ranking Member Moran,

We the undersigned organizations write to thank you for your strong support of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in the annual appropriations process and to urge the BEA be funded at \$130 million FY25 so that it can continue to produce high-quality data on our nation's economy, an increase of approximately \$12 million over its FY24 level of approximately \$118 million.

While a relatively small agency, BEA is enormously important to understanding our multi-trillion-dollar economy. BEA's National Income and Product Accounts provide an overall picture of the economic health of our economy as well as an essential sector-by-sector and geographic report. Its data are used by federal, state and local government to inform economic and fiscal policy and to spur economic growth and job creation and informing academic and applied economic research and research training activities. BEA data also play a vital role in guiding business and investment decisions in the private sector. The data provided by BEA, essential as it is to both public, private, and scientific decisions, are not available from any other source. We believe the extraordinary return on investment provided by BEA thoroughly justifies a budget of \$130 million in FY25.

The requested amount for BEA would allow it to (i) improve its coverage of its highly watched and influential National Economic Accounts, including national GDP, GDP by industry, and GDP satellite accounts such as outdoor recreation; (ii) better cover the economic activity of the United States with other countries through U.S. international transactions, trade in goods and services, and new foreign direct investment; (iii) further illuminate regional economic activity through GDP by county, regional input-output multipliers, and regional price parities. The requested level would support development of the National Secure Data Service to leverage government data to support evidence-based policymaking and a new program to "systematically

measure the contribution of environmental-economic activities to U.S. economic growth, employment, incomes, and productivity”.<sup>1</sup>

Having lost 12 percent in [purchasing power since FY16](#) and a ten percent decrease in staff size, the increase requested here would help BEA to maintain the staff necessary for BEA to continue to produce its many products.

In short, we believe that \$130 million for the BEA is an essential investment for promoting economic growth and job creation. Just as our economy is constantly changing, BEA is constantly improving its methods to adjust to our dynamic economy. This investment in our information infrastructure—small relative to our multi-trillion-dollar economy which it tracks—allows BEA to keep up with the changes in our economy and will repay the public many times over.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Sociological Association  
American Association for Public Opinion  
Research  
American Planning Association  
American Statistical Association  
Association for Public Policy Analysis &  
Management  
Association for University Business and  
Economic Research  
Association of Academic Survey Research  
Organizations  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Public Data Users

Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council for Community and Economic  
Research  
Council of Professional Associations on  
Federal Statistics  
Economic History Association  
Industry Studies Association  
National Association for Business Economics  
National Association of Development  
Organizations  
Population Association of America  
Society of Government Economists  
State International Development Organizations

*The staff contact for this letter is Steve Pierson, Director of Science Policy for the American Statistical Association ([pierson@amstat.org](mailto:pierson@amstat.org); 703.302.1841.)*

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted from a Department of Commerce FY24 document for BEA:  
<https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/BEA-FY2024-Congressional-Budget-Submission.pdf>.