



American Statistical Association

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November 14, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-Elect
Chicago, IL

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

As President of the American Statistical Association with its 18,000 members, I wish you congratulations on your election. I write to ask you to make the appointment for Census Bureau director as early as possible in your Presidency to ensure continuity in this critical year before the 2010 Census.

As you know, the decennial census is fundamental to our democracy for its role in determining Congressional representation and distribution of \$300 billion in federal funds. A census is a very complex undertaking requiring extensive coordination and years of planning. For this reason, it is essential that the transition to new leadership happen as quickly and smoothly as possible.

I also request your Administration's further support over the next two years and beyond to ensure a successful decennial census, including adequate funding in the FY09 and FY10 budgets.

If the American Statistical Association can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter A. Lachenbruch".

Peter A. Lachenbruch