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January 23, 2014

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chair Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chair Wolf, and Ranking Member Fattah,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association, I write to thank you for the FY14 funding levels for the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis. As two of our three federal economic statistical agencies, their statistical data are very important to our economy. Their data are used by federal, state, and local governments, as well as by the private sector, to inform decisions that contribute to economic development and job creation. The data also help make our government smarter and more efficient.

The FY14 levels your appropriations subcommittee provided are helpful for these agencies to provide the statistical data so needed across our economy. The FY13 budget cuts and the government showed how vital these economic statistical data are.

The funding level for the U.S. Census Bureau will help immensely the work being done for the 2020 decennial census, which is well under way and where there is a particular focus on containing costs. Wise investments now, like those you made for FY14, can potentially save billions of dollars down the road.

I understand how tight the federal budget is and so greatly appreciate the levels for these two agencies.

Sincerely,

Marie Davidian, PhD
2013 ASA President