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July 9, 2014

Katherine K. Wallman
Chief Statistician
Office of Management and Budget
10201 New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Wallman,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association, I write to express my strong support for the proposed Statistical Policy Directive: Fundamental Responsibilities of Federal Statistical Agencies and Recognized Statistical Units. The federal statistical agencies and units provide statistical data that are critical to our governance and are widely used in the private sector. The data are used to determine representation in the House of Representatives and, upon release, can move the economic markets. No matter the use, it is imperative the data be seen as accurate and objective. To achieve these goals, the statistical agencies must have the resources and independence to operate effectively and efficiently. The directive clearly lays out four responsibilities to help the federal statistical agencies carry out their important work and I strongly endorse them.

The American Statistical Association is the oldest professional science association in the United States and the largest statistical association in the world. We are a proud supporter of the federal statistical system, with many of its leaders having also served as presidents of the ASA. As one example of our support, the ASA Board of Directors has endorsed the National Academies' *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, which is discussed in the background section of the Federal Notice.

Thank you for your leadership on this directive.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Wasserstein
Executive Director