



May 23, 2014

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

We want to thank you for your support in recent years for the necessary planning funds for Census 2020, incorporated in the last few federal budgets and urge your support for full funding for Census 2020 planning and the American Community Survey (ACS) in the FY 2015 budget.

The National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC) and the National Apartment Association (NAA) represent the nation's leading firms participating in the multifamily rental housing industry. Our combined memberships are engaged in all aspects of the apartment industry, including ownership, development, management and finance. NMHC represents the principal officers of the apartment industry's largest and most prominent firms. NAA is a federation of more than 170 state and local affiliates comprised of 63,000 multifamily housing companies representing 6.8 million apartment homes throughout the United States and Canada.

As you know, the House Commerce, Justice, and Science bill cuts at least \$105 million from the Census Bureau budget request, a 9 percent reduction in funding. We urge you to support full funding for Census 2020 and the ACS. The House bill cuts \$56 million from decennial census planning that would lead to a more cost-effective, accurate Census 2020. Failure to complete planned research, testing and development of money-saving techniques such as internet response could force the Census Bureau to fall back on older, more costly and less efficient methods in 2020. The newer methods could save taxpayers \$5 billion in the next decennial, but final testing of these innovations and selection of a design framework cannot be put off any longer in the bureau's Census 2020 planning cycle. In addition, the Census Bureau will also complete a comprehensive review in FY 2015 of questions on the ACS, part of the decennial census process, and the bureau needs resources to prepare for the 2016 National Content Test.

We urge you to continue your support for a fair and accurate Census 2020 along with continued funding for the ACS. Without current, reliable data, the nation will be forced to rely on outdated information that may or may not accurately reflect current conditions in the housing market. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Bibby
President
National Multifamily Housing Council

Douglas S. Culkin, CAE
President
National Apartment Association

NMHC/NAA Joint Legislative Program