

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 26, 2009

Dr. Robert M. Groves  
Director  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of the Census  
Room 8H002  
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Dr. Groves,

We write out of great concern over the issue of the Census Bureau's hiring of temporary workers that may have criminal records. As Members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee, we have repeatedly pledged to you our commitment to put politics aside and work with the Bureau to ensure a successful 2010 Census.

The bedrock of that success will undoubtedly be the American public's confidence in the 2010 Census. In fact, just this week at a Census Subcommittee hearing, when asked what your biggest concern was, you responded:

"I'm most worried about the behavior of the American public, whether they will return this questionnaire at the rates that we hope they will, and that the leadership of this country ignites and energizes themselves to encourage that participation. We need you at this moment."

Allowing individuals with criminal records to be enumerators – to go out into the public and walk up to people's homes and knock on doors – will have a seriously detrimental effect on the American people's confidence in the 2010 Census and their behavior. Integrity in the process is vital to successful completion and confidence by the American people. Moreover, the safety and security of Americans in their own homes are at stake.

We request that you make a commitment in writing to us and on behalf of the American people that the Census Bureau will not hire anyone with any criminal record to be an enumerator or to any other temporary Census Bureau position that will interact with the public. We also request that you reassign any temporary employees who may be currently interacting with the public to a position in which they will not be interacting with the public at their homes.

We also request a written copy of any guidelines the Census Bureau uses to determine risk in evaluating an applicant's criminal record. Your response must include both a list of crimes that automatically disqualify an applicant and a list indicating the

types of crimes committed by temporary employees and the number of temporary employees that have committed each type of crime. Since some employees may have committed more than one type of crime, please indicate total number of employees with criminal records. Please provide the requested documentation no later than the close of business on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

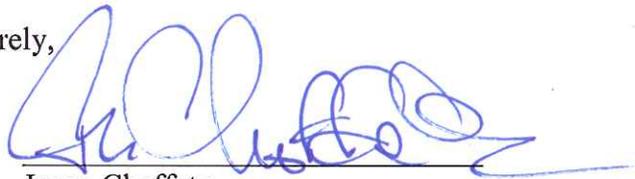
We remain steadfast in our commitment to a successful 2010 Decennial, and we thank you for your public commitment to this shared endeavor. We will continue to partner with the Census Bureau to ensure that together we achieve a fair, accurate and trustworthy 2010 Census. Trust is paramount and we appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



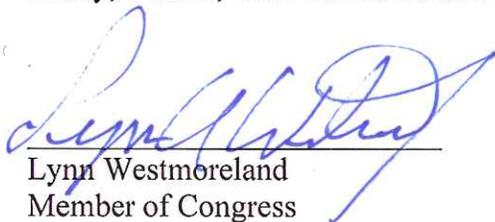
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Patrick T. McHenry  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Information  
Policy, Census, and National Archives



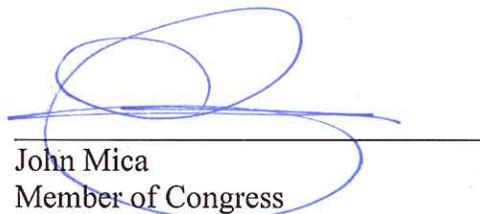
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Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress



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Lynn Westmoreland  
Member of Congress



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John Mica  
Member of Congress