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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4403

April 27, 2010

Chairman Michael Steele
Republican National Committee
310 First Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairman Steele,

A fundraising letter sent by the Republican National Committee (RNC) which purports to be a "Census Document Registered To" was brought to my attention today. I am worried that letter violates not only the spirit but also the letter of the *Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act* (Public Law 111-155, hereafter "the Act"), of which I was a cosponsor, and which both houses of Congress passed unanimously.

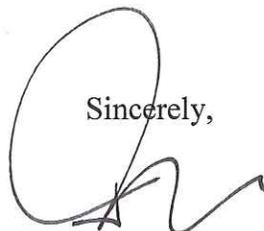
The clear intent of Congress in passing the Act was to prevent confusion on the part of citizens who receive mailings invoking or referring to the Census during this important year in which the official Census is taken. The fundraising letter evaded that intended purpose in a manner I believe is unacceptable.

In my capacity as a member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and as a Republican, I write today to ask you to seriously reconsider the use of such deceptive and misleading tactics. Simply put, the RNC should not invoke the official U.S. Census as a means to confuse and deceive recipients of the mailer into opening it, thinking they are complying with their civic duty. This letter was not an "official document," as it suggested.

I expect all political parties, Republicans and Democrats alike, to abide by the Act and any other relevant laws. While I can appreciate the efforts you and your colleagues at the RNC are making to assist qualified Republican candidates to gain office in this election year, we should not resort to tactics that reflect negatively on our party's character, or on the public offices we seek.

I look forward to continuing to work productively with you to advance policies in the best interests of America and its citizens.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress