Attachment C

May 5, 2009

Ms. Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 7845
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: *Federal Register* notice of April 13, 2009, for the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey (OMB Number: 0607-0104)

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey. This important survey is our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Data on retail sales (item 4) are used to prepare monthly estimates of the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) component of gross domestic product for all PCE goods categories, except motor vehicles and gasoline and oil. These estimates are also published each month in the *Personal Income and Outlays* press release.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to these forms. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the forms' approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, on 202-606-9653 or by e-mail at Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov. Should you need assistance in justifying these forms' to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,
/s/
Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician