



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration

November 24, 2015

Ms. Jennifer Jessup
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: *Federal Register* notice of September 30, 2015, for the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of State Government Research and Development (OMB Number: 0607-0933)

Dear Ms. Jessup:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the collection of data by the Census Bureau in the State Government Research and Development (R&D) Survey. The data collected in this survey are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics because it is the only comprehensive source of data on state government funding of R&D activity.

BEA is currently using these data to estimate the contribution of state agency-funded R&D to the overall impact of treating R&D as investment in BEA's statistics of gross domestic product by state. BEA has incorporated R&D as investment into its regularly released statistics since 2014.

As described in the federal register notice, changing the frequency of the survey from every two years to every year will provide more years of data for our analysis, although state-funded R&D accounts for a relatively small share of total R&D. Further, the breakdown of federal funds for R&D funding by department will enhance our regional analysis of federal contributions of R&D by state and department. BEA does not expect the changes to significantly affect the way we put together the estimates; rather, we think they will help us improve our methodology.

Please keep BEA informed concerning any modifications to this form. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the form's approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, at 202-606-9618 or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov. Should you need assistance in justifying this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician