



August 24, 2015

To: Jennifer Jessup, Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce
From: Patricia C. Becker, Executive Director
Re: Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; 2016 Test

The Southeast Michigan Census Council would like to take this opportunity to support the Census Bureau plan for the 2016 Content Test.

The plan, as outlined in the Federal Register Notice of August 4, is thorough and comprehensive. If executed as planned, it will go a long way to ensuring a successful 2020 Census.

We especially note the testing of the use of administrative records for removal of vacant housing units from the NRFU universe. In cities like Detroit, with a surplus of vacant housing and a high rate of poverty, many abandoned homes are occupied by squatters. It is extremely important to ensure that this population is included in the enumeration, even as its members may avoid the census. Testing must determine the methods which will separate squatter-occupied housing from truly vacant housing with high accuracy.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.