October 6, 2020

Ms. Sheleen Dumas
Departmental PRA Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Commerce Department

Re*: Federal Register Notice* of September 10, 2020, for the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (OMB Control Number: 0607-0782)

Dear Ms. Dumas:

The Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) strongly supports the continued collection of capital expenditures data by the Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES). The annual capital expenditures collected from this survey for the health care sector are critical to the National Health Expenditures Accounts (NHEA). The NHEA is a detailed economic accounting matrix that estimates total health spending in the United States by provider, payer, and sponsor. In the future, as CMS works to collect and analyze data to determine the impact of the Coronavirus disease on national health expenditures, the ACES data will continue to play an instrumental role on preparing these estimates.

The ACES data is used by the Office of the Actuary to produce annual estimates of investment in private structures and private equipment put in place by the health care sector. Specifically, each year when preparing estimates for the NHEA, CMS uses the following ACES data for the detailed sectors underlying NAICS 62 (health care and social assistance):

- Capital Expenditures for New Structures
- Capital Expenditures for New Equipment

Please keep CMS informed about changes to the ACES. For additional information, please contact Aaron Catlin, Deputy Director in the National Health Statistics Group, at 410-786-3138 or by e-mail at Aaron.Catlin@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Heffler
Director, National Health Statistics Group
Office of Actuary, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services