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As the global economy transitions away from a linear petroleum-based, fossil fuel-driven model towards a more sustainable and circular one, it is imperative that society measure these changes in an effective and transparent manner. Government policy makers, businesses, and research institutions all require high quality, timely, and relevant data in order to make sound decisions concerning the growth of the bioeconomy. One important component critical to measuring the bioeconomy are material inputs comprised of renewable and otherwise reusable feedstocks. This is especially crucial in the manufacturing sector. After reviewing the material costs item (Item 18.) on the Census questionnaires for the manufacturing sector (questionnaires beginning with 'MC') as published on the recent Federal Register notice, we have included recommendations for updating the Census material codes for the 2022 Economic Census, in order to more accurately capture and measure sustainable and biobased material inputs. By adopting these recommendations, the Census Bureau will be in a much better position to provide data users with the indispensable statistics required to make sound policy, strengthen business decision-making, and educate the research community. One item of note—the hyperlink listed in the Register notice stated that the questionnaires listed were drafts for the 2022 Economic Census. However, the link directed us to the 2017 Economic questionnaires. We assume Item 18. On the manufacturing questionnaires did not change since 2017, and our comments are based on this assumption.

Best regards,
Harold Fritts