



THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

URBAN MARKETS INITIATIVE METROPOLITAN POLICY PROGRAM

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June 26, 2006

Diane Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6625
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
via e-mail: dhynek@doc.gov

RE: Request for comments regarding the proposed collection of the Commodity Flow Survey

Dear Ms. Hynek,

On behalf of the Urban Markets Initiative (UMI) of the Brookings Institution, I am pleased to respond to the notice placed by the Census Bureau in the April 26, 2006 Federal Register asking for comments regarding the proposed 2007 Commodity Flow Survey (CFS).

UMI seeks to stimulate greater private and public investment in urban areas through promoting increased availability, accessibility, and accuracy of community-level demographic and socioeconomic data. From this perspective, UMI believes that the CFS is an important and necessary dataset for understanding the nature of state and metropolitan economic activity, particularly regarding the role of goods imports and exports, and for transportation planning. In consequence, we strongly support the Census Bureau's request to carry out the CFS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Andrew Reamer,
Deputy Director, Urban Markets Initiative