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These proposed changes are unnecessary, costly, and put undue burden on Americans. The Department's goals, as stated on the Notice of Proposed Information Collection, are as follows: 1. to "evaluate whether proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the department." The function is to accurately identify individuals and their nationality. Since "sex" and "gender" are not interchangeable terms, and there are biologically more than two sexes, using a sex/gender marker on passports does not aid in accurately identifying individuals, and requiring this information is a waste of the Department's and American's time and money.

2. to "evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used." As stated above, the time and cost burden to both the Department and individual Americans is not merited, since the proposed changes will not increase the accuracy of identifying individuals.

3. to "enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected." There is no utility in collecting sex or gender information, since it does not aid in identifying individuals. Every agent who uses a passport to try to accurately identify an individual is also operating on their own assumptions of what a person of a specific sex or gender should look like; therefore, sex or gender can't be accurately assessed and compared to what a passport indicates. This information becomes subjective, which leads to confusion and mistakes, instead of enhancing clarity.

4. to "minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond." Since sex or gender markers do not increase the utility, clarity, or ability to accurately identify an individual, requiring this information is a waste of the individual's time and the Department's money.