

December 23, 2009

Ms. Carol Rowan
BLS Clearance Officer
Division of Management Systems
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212

RE: *Federal Register* notice of November 17, 2009, on the proposed extension of the Multiple Worksite Report (MWR) - BLS Form 3020; and the Report of Federal Employment and Wages (RFEW) - BLS Form 3021 (OMB Number: 1220-034)

Dear Ms. Rowan:

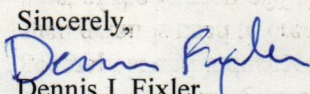
The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the proposed extension of the Multiple Worksite Report (MWR), and the Report of Federal Employment and Wages (RFEW). These reports are a critical part of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program because they provide geographic and industry detail for multi-establishment employers and federal employment. In addition, such detail is used to create the Business Establishment List (BEL) which is used as a sampling frame for most of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) surveys. BEA uses data from the QCEW program and the many BLS surveys that rely on the BEL sampling frame to prepare critical components of the national income and product accounts.

The importance of the QCEW program and the geographic and industry detail provided by the MWR and RFEW cannot be overstated. The MWR and RFEW provide quarterly data on wages and salaries, employment by establishment, and main business activity. Such details are critical to BEA's regional accounts, national income and product and wealth accounts, input-output accounts, and gross domestic product by industry estimates. BEA's state personal income estimates which use the QCEW data as a base are used to allocate over \$227 billion in federal grants to State and local governments.

BEA supports BLS in continuing the effort to reduce employer reporting burden by developing a standardized format for electronic submissions and its establishment of the Electronic Data Exchange to improve and expedite the MWR. Such actions should result in more timely and accurate data.

Please keep BEA informed concerning any modifications to these forms. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the forms' approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, on 202-606-9653 or by e-mail at Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov. Should you need assistance in justifying these forms to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician