

Attachment B

November 12, 2009

Ms. Diana Hynek
Departmental Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 7845
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: *Federal Register* notice of September 30, 2009, for the U.S. Census Bureau's Form C-404, Report of Building or Zoning Permits Issued for New Privately-Owned Housing Units (Building Permits Survey) (OMB Number: 0607-0094)

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Census Bureau on Form C-404, Report of Building or Zoning Permits Issued for New Privately-Owned Housing Units (Building Permits Survey). The data collected on this form is very important in preparing estimates for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA's use of the data is indirect in that the information from this survey is used by the Census Bureau to prepare estimates of the value of residential construction put in place. These estimates are used by BEA to prepare estimates of the residential structures component of gross domestic product and residential investment in the estimates of fixed assets.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications made to this form. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the form's 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 this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician