

March 7, 2011

Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: *Federal Register* notice of January 24, 2011, for the U.S. Census Bureau's Automated Export System (AES) (OMB Number: 0607-0152)

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Census Bureau's Automated Export System (AES) or through *AESDirect*, as well as through the post-departure filing program. The data collected are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Also, BEA supports the additional data elements to reflect new export reporting requirements. More complete and timely export data, which would be achieved through these regulatory changes, would help improve the accuracy of the U.S. international and national accounts statistics.

BEA uses the export data to prepare U.S. merchandise trade statistics and U.S. trade in services statistics covering transportation services. These statistics are components of the U.S. International Transactions Accounts (ITAs). Data from the ITAs are used for measuring U.S. Gross Domestic Product and for preparing the Input-Output Accounts of the United States.

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

Sincerely,

Dennis Fixler
Chief Statistician

BE58:BPD:MBOUCHARD: 2/11/11
cc: SDIEP Group, John Rutter, M Mann, P Farello