

ATTACHMENT N

GWU Comments

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

April 8, 2012

Tim Wojan
Resource and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Mail Stop 1800, Room 6-135B
Washington, DC 20250-0002

Via email: twojan@ers.usda.gov

Re: Comments on the proposed data collection for the Rural Establishment Innovation Survey (also known as the National Survey of Business Competitiveness)


I am pleased to respond to the notice in the *Federal Register* (February 6, 2013) asking for comments regarding the Economic Research Service (ERS) information collection request, "Rural Establishment Innovation Survey."

As a research professor at the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, I focus on federal policies and programs that support U.S. economic competitiveness. From this perspective, I believe that ERS's Rural Establishment Innovation Survey provides information essential for understanding the nation's competitive position, particularly in terms of how rural businesses and their communities are dealing with the increasing competitive pressures and opportunities associated with the spread of new information technologies through our economy.

Consequently, I strongly support the USDA's Economic Research Service in its efforts to better understand the changing economic landscape of rural tradable business sectors and communities. The Rural Establishment Innovation Survey is an important component of overall improvements in providing our nation with a more complete picture of its economic competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrew Reamer, Research Professor
George Washington Institute of Public Policy
The George Washington University