

October 18, 2017

Nora Kincaid
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 August 31, 2017, for the Bureau of Labor Statistics
Telephone Point of Purchase Survey (OMB Number: 1220-0044)

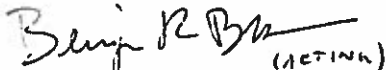
Dear Ms. Kincaid:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Telephone Point of Purchase Survey (TPOPS). This important survey is critical to the data quality of numerous components of BEA's GDP statistics.

The importance of the information gathered through the TPOPS cannot be overstated. Information from this survey is used as the sampling universe for selecting establishments at which prices of specific items are collected and monitored for use in the BLS' Consumer Price Index (CPI) Program. BEA uses CPIs primarily to deflate numerous components of PCE, the change in private inventories, and state and local government purchases.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications 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 Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9618 or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@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,



Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist