



ASSOCIATION OF POPULATION CENTERS POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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August 15, 2007

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chair
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lieberman and Senator Collins:

On behalf of the over 3,000 members of the Population Association of America (PAA) and over 30 population research centers comprising the Association of Population Centers (APC), we are writing to express our support for the nomination of Dr. Steve Murdock to be the next Director of the United States Census Bureau and to urge the Senate to confirm his nomination in a timely manner.

The Population Association of America (PAA) (www.popassoc.org) is a professional organization of over 3,000 individual members who conduct research on the implications of population change. PAA members include demographers, sociologists, economists, health scientists, and statisticians. The Association of Population Centers (APC) (www.popcenters.org) is an organization comprised of over 30 universities and research groups nationwide whose mission includes fostering collaborative demographic research and data sharing and translating basic population research for policy makers.

PAA and APC members rely on accessible data produced by the Census Bureau to conduct their research. Our members use surveys conducted by the Bureau, including the Current Population Survey, Survey of Income and Program Participation, and American Community Survey, as well as data from the decennial censuses to analyze and monitor socioeconomic trends, migration and immigration patterns, and the changing demographics of the American population. As prominent users of the Bureau's data, our members are frequently asked to serve on the agency's advisory groups, including the Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations. Therefore, we have a vested interest in ensuring effective, knowledgeable managers who possess appropriate, outstanding scientific and administrative expertise lead the Bureau. We are confident Dr. Murdock is well qualified to lead the Bureau—

especially at this critical juncture when preparations for the 2010 Census are underway.

Dr. Murdock has a Ph.D. in Demography and Sociology from the University of Kentucky and is the author of 12 books and more than 150 articles and technical reports on the implications of current and future demographic and socioeconomic change. In recognition of his academic achievements and service to the Texas A&M University system, which he served between 1997 and 2004, Dr. Murdock was named a "Regents Professor." In 2004, he was appointed the Lutchter Brown Distinguished Chair in Management Science and Statistics in the Department of Management Science and Statistics at the University of Texas San Antonio. In addition, he was appointed head of the University's Institute of Demographic and Socioeconomic Research.

His credentials as a respected researcher have lent themselves well to the policy-related positions Dr. Murdock has simultaneously held throughout his career. Since 1980, Dr. Murdock has been the Director of the Texas State Data Center and liaison for the Federal/State Cooperative Programs for Population Estimates and Projections. These are official partnerships with the Census Bureau to disseminate census data and develop both state and federal population estimates and projections. In 2001, Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Dr. Murdock the first State Demographer of Texas. These experiences, in particular, have honed Dr. Murdock's skills as a manager and given him numerous opportunities to inform current policy debates.

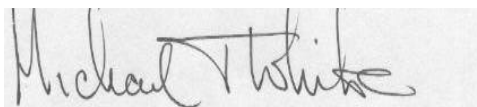
In light of Dr. Murdock's exceptional record as a researcher and administrator, we believe the United States Senate should act quickly to confirm his appointment as the next Director of the U.S. Census Bureau. Delaying consideration of his nomination will leave the Bureau with a serious leadership gap during this momentous phase of planning for the 2010 Census. We hope the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will schedule a nomination hearing after the congressional summer recess. Further, we hope Senate leaders will commit to vote on his nomination this fall.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information regarding Dr. Murdock's nomination.

Sincerely,



Barbara Entwisle, Ph.D.
President
Population Association of America



Michael White, Ph.D.
President
Association of Population Centers

cc: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs members