



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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March 6, 2017

Wilbur Ross  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association (ASA), congratulations on your new role as Commerce Secretary! The appointment is a testament to your leadership experience and your exemplary service. We are delighted to hear this news.

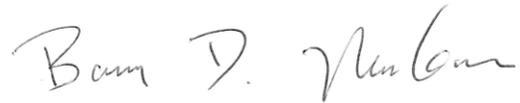
As you know, the United States Census Bureau is located in the Commerce Department. The ASA, the oldest scientific society in the nation, has a long history of supporting the federal statistical agencies and working with the Census Bureau. We have been especially encouraged by your experience as a Census enumerator and your recent positive comments regarding the Bureau. Along with many other stakeholder groups, including those representing the business community and different social groups, we hope that you will take necessary steps to maintain the Bureau's status as a premier federal statistical agency. Specifically, we hope that you will carefully consider actions to ensure an accurate and fair Decennial Census in 2020, as well as other appropriate efforts to maintain other current programs such as the American Community Survey.

Also located in the Commerce Department is the Bureau of Economic Analysis, which collects, compiles, and distributes data relating to the U.S. economy, including the gross domestic product. The BEA is one of thirteen primary statistical agencies, and even with its relatively modest budget, it provides valuable insights to our trillion dollar economy. We also hope that you will support consistent and full funding for the BEA, as their statistics can identify important trends and often help to move the markets.

We look forward to hearing how we can support your efforts in this new position and working together to advance the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Would you or your staff have time to meet with us and discuss priorities over the next several weeks? Please let us know, and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

We wish you every success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry D. Nussbaum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Barry D. Nussbaum  
President, American Statistical Association