



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Office of the Director
Washington, DC 20233-0001

August 7, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

The Census Bureau's career experts have developed a plan to accelerate our mission to meet the statutory deadline to provide apportionment counts by December 31, 2020. As I noted during my testimony last week in the Committee's emergency hearing, we were at that time in the process of assessing our operational plans. On Monday, August 3, we finalized that plan and shared it with your committee staff prior to the public announcement later that day. This plan is thoughtfully designed to deliver a complete and accurate census, including reaching hard-to-count communities. We look forward to briefing your staff on this plan and its execution, as was done today, and senior Census Bureau staff members remain available to do so during our regular Friday briefings.

The Census Bureau will continue working with the Committee in furtherance of transparency and accommodation during these challenging times. We did so last week by testifying on less than a week's notice at the Committee's emergency hearing. However, your request for transcribed interviews of multiple Census Bureau officials as referenced in your August 4, 2020 letter, in the midst of ongoing census operations—especially during an unprecedented pandemic—is overly burdensome and would present substantial disruptions to the essential operations of the census. This includes the operation most important to reaching the hardest to count members of our population, designated as Nonresponse Follow-Up. This work has already begun in many areas and is scheduled to begin nationwide next week. Scheduling interviews with senior staff of the Census Bureau during this critical time in our operations would be disruptive to our work to complete the census. We will continue to address specific questions you may have during our regular briefings.

I look forward to having our career experts continue briefing your staff on these important matters. We share your and your committee members' dedication to a complete census. Please be assured that the Census Bureau and our growing workforce of almost a half million public servants, with an even greater number of partnering supporters, are committed to this vital mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven D. Dillingham".

Steven Dillingham
Director

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member