

From: Vandenbroucke, David A
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 9:44 AM
To: 'gmelford@cfed.org'
Cc: 'lwilliams@cfed.org'
Subject: RE: Comment Letter - OMB Approval Number (2528-0017)

Ms. Melford:

Thank you for your letter of February 11, 2011 in support of the American Housing Survey (AHS). We appreciate your taking the time to submit your comments on this data collection.

We do understand the unusual institutional status of manufactured housing, entangled as it is in the categories of real property, personal property, and even vehicles. We recognize that manufactured homes have a role to play in the nation's housing stock, and that they are especially important as affordable, owner-occupied housing.

The AHS serves many data needs. It has a long survey instrument, and we have to be very careful about not overburdening our respondents, who participate voluntarily. Thus, we have to carefully balance the utility of any proposed items against the added burden they would impose, taking into consideration the extent to which the respondents would be able to provide accurate answers. That said, we are interested in exploring what can be done to improve the data we collect about manufactured housing units. If you have sample questionnaire items taken from other surveys or designed by your members, we will consider them for incorporation into the 2013 AHS data collection. (Note that the 2011 instrument is already in final form and cannot be altered.)

Thank you again for your comments. We hope that you will continue to find the AHS useful and that we can, with your input, produce an even better survey in the future.

Sincerely,

David A. Vandenbroucke
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