



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 12, 2011

Mr. Alex Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) requests expedited review of a revision to a currently approved information collection, OMB Control Number 0660-0021, Broadband Subscription and Usage Survey which is a supplement to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

President Barack Obama is committed to expanding broadband technology across the country. To that end, the Administration is working with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Utilities Service, the states, and other parties to develop and implement economic and regulatory policies that foster broadband deployment and adoption. Current, systematic, and comprehensive data on broadband use and non-use by U.S. households is critical to allow policymakers not only to gauge progress made to date, but also to identify problem areas with a specificity that permits carefully targeted and cost effective responses.

On February 10, 2011, the President outlined his "national wireless initiative," calling for extending the next (4G) generation of wireless service to 98 percent of the country over the next five years. In response to this initiative, the White House and NTIA are seeking to expand the existing set of July 2011 CPS Internet Use questions. This challenge has led to the development of survey questions on the current extent and nature of wireless broadband and reasons for non-adoption of this technology by some households. NTIA believes these questions will deliver data that may significantly inform the President's national wireless initiative.

This expedited review is needed to allow the Census Bureau enough time to incorporate the proposed broadband questions into the July CPS; the standard Paperwork Reduction Act clearance process would delay the implementation of the proposed survey questions in the CPS. NTIA is requesting that review be completed by July 1, 2011.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Diana H. Hynek
Information Collections Officer