



Dear Sir or Madam:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is asking for your help in constructing the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The BLS is an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor. The CPI is a measure of change in the cost of goods and services typically purchased by urban consumers. As the only comprehensive measure of inflation at the retail level, the CPI is widely used by private industry, labor and government to help in making informed business and economic decisions.

As part of this effort, the BLS conducts the CPI Housing Survey. This ongoing survey provides important information on changes in housing costs. Housing costs account for approximately 40 percent of urban consumers' expenditures.

Approximately every ten years, a new sample of housing units is chosen using statistical methods to represent all housing in the country. Your residence has been chosen randomly to represent a large number of similar housing units. In order to maintain the accuracy of the CPI, it is vital that we collect information on as many selected units as possible. For that reason, we are asking you to help us by participating in the CPI Housing Survey. Although your help is very important to us, participation is voluntary.

Our representative will show you official identification and ask a few short questions concerning your home. The questions require only brief verbal responses. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will use the information you provide for statistical purposes only and will hold the information in confidence to the full extent permitted by law.

Please feel free to ask our representative any questions you may have about your participation in the CPI Housing Survey. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet S. Rankin".

Janet S. Rankin
Regional Commissioner