DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

TO: Alex Goodenough, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

FROM: Ryan Law, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Privacy, Transparency, and Records

SUBJECT: Justification for Emergency Processing: Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Compliance Reports

Pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 C.F.R. § 1320.13, the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) requests emergency processing for a Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) program information collection request, revising OMB Control Number 1505-0273.

On December 27, 2020, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (the "Act"), Pub. L. No. 116-260., Division N, Title IV, Subtitle B, Section 3201 of the Act authorized the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) program and provides $2. billion for the U.S. Department of the Treasury(Treasury) to provide grants to eligible motorcoach companies, school bus companies, passenger vessel companies, and pilotage companies that have experienced annual revenue losses of 25 percent or more as result of COVID-19.

Treasury is seeking approval for the CERTS quarterly reporting forms, which all CERTS recipients will use to submit detailed information on their utilization of CERTS award funds. This information collection is vitally important for Treasury to effectively monitor the CERTS grantees' compliance with the requirements of the CERTS award.

Due to the need for recipients to prepare and submit these CERTS quarterly reports to Treasury expeditiously, Treasury requests emergency processing and approval of CERTS quarterly report forms, instructions, and Treasury's Portal User Guide by December 20, 2021 in order to increase the efficient distribution of CERTS quarterly reporting guidance and to facilitateease of communication with the CERTS grantees on reporting matters. Treasury plans to open the portal for entry on January 2, 2022, with recipient give 45 days[1] to enter the information for the first submission (reports will be due February 15, 2022). Treasury would like to publish the revised guidance expeditiously, to allow respondents, particularly small businesses, ample time to review and prepare. In compliance with PRA regulation (5 CFR 1320.10) to renew the OMB approval, Treasury has published a 60-day Federal Register Notice (86 FR 56760) soliciting comments on the program, including the compliance reports. Given that the public commenting period is still open and the need to provide respondents time to prepare for the reporting, Treasury is requesting emergency processing to receive OMB approval on the reports.

[1] Note that, in consultation with the PRAC, subsequent reporting periods will be limited to 15 days. The 45-day period is only for the first reporting period.