CEERD-HN-C June 26th, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO:
Mr. Thomas J. Smith
U.S. Census Bureau

SUBJECT: *Federal Register* notice 91 FR 29449 of May 5, 2026, re: Commodity Flow Survey

Dear Mr. Smith,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Navigation R&D program strongly supports the sustained collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS). The CFS data remain critical to research efforts conducted by the USACE to better understand the interactions between the marine transportation system and the broader multimodal freight network as we support American prosperity through a robust transportation infrastructure network.

The products that result from the CFS data collection effort inform our understanding of the extent of broader “freight-sheds” (areas which may generate or receive cargo that passes through an individual port or navigation project), which in turn assist efforts to improve supply chain resiliency. Without the CFS, and products like the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Freight Analysis Framework (FAF) that use the CFS as a foundational input, there would be a huge gap in understanding how American businesses use the multimodal freight network to provide goods and services around the entire country. State, Local, and Federal decision-makers are increasingly seeking more detailed information, both temporal details and geographic details, about how the infrastructure within their areas of responsibility are utilized, and the CFS is the only readily available and nation-wide dataset that can provide this information.

The USACE Navigation mission includes 25,000 miles of federally-authorized navigation channels, over 200 lock and dam structures, and extensive shoreline protection features. Linking the construction and maintenance of this infrastructure to the commerce that it supports provides for informed investment decisions.

If you have questions please contact me at Marin.M.Kress@usace.army.mil.

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