From: Alparslan, Tuncay <Tuncay.Alparslan@eia.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 12:39 PM
To: Thomas J Smith (CENSUS/ADEP FED) <Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov>
Subject: Commodity Flow Survey Federal Register Notice (#2026-10118)

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Mr. Smith:

As Director of the Office of Energy Demand at the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), I am writing to express our strong support for the continued collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2027 Commodity Flow Survey (CFS). The CFS data are critical to the quality of EIA's Annual Energy Outlook (AEO), which is mandated by Congress.

EIA's Transportation Demand Module (TDM) relies extensively on data from the Freight Analysis Framework (FAF), which in turn is heavily dependent on the CFS. The FAF is vital to the TDM because it serves as the mechanism enabling EIA to link freight travel demand to broader macroeconomic growth. Specifically, EIA utilizes FAF data to examine how changes in U.S. industrial output translate into demand for freight transport. The CFS-supported FAF provides detailed freight travel demand, measured in ton-miles, segmented by mode (truck, rail, and marine), commodity type, and origin/destination pairings. We crosswalk these physical commodities to the industrial sectors represented in our macroeconomic module within the National Energy Modeling System (NEMS), allowing us to estimate ton-mile per dollar parameters. We then apply these parameters to project growth in freight travel demand based on industrial output, ultimately informing our estimates of miles traveled by mode and the consumption of diesel and other fuels.

Without the comprehensive, multimodal data provided by the CFS, the analytical quality of our counterfactual baseline projections and policy case scenarios, intended to support evidence-based policy making and efficient decision making in both the public and private sectors, would be negatively impacted.

We respectfully request to be kept informed about any modifications proposed for the 2027 CFS forms during the clearance process, especially those that might affect the granularity or quality of commodity and modal shipping data. Should you require any assistance in justifying the necessity of this data collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), please do not hesitate to contact EIA.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this essential survey.

Sincerely,

Ugur Tuncay Alparslan

Director

Office of Energy Demand

U.S. Energy Information Administration