U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 7, 2026

Mr. Thomas J. Smith
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Rd
Washington, DC 20233

Re: OMB No. 0607-0932: Commodity Flow Survey

Mr. Smith,

I write to share the critical role the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) data plays in executing the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHMS) mission, and to endorse the Bureau of Transportation Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau's continued collection of this data. PHMSA's mission is to advance the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. The agency's risk-based approach to our safety mission requires a numerator: hazardous materials incidents, and a denominator: how much of that hazardous material is being transported. When incidents do occur, OHMS uses the CFS data- usually volume or number of shipments of a given hazardous material or hazard class- to make a probabilistic risk assessment.

PHMSA OHMS also uses CFS data to act as an efficient safety regulator. When the Agency identifies regulatory changes with no impact to safety, CFS volume data allows for OHMS to prioritize actions with the greatest cost savings for the American people. In early 2026, OHMS modernized placarding requirements for some fuel shipments. And without the CFS data, it would have been impossible to identify the $145m in cost savings that these commonsense changes provide.

Simply put, the CFS is our primary source for understanding the size and characteristics of our regulated community. Please continue collecting, publishing, and improving this survey so that we may best execute the PHMSA OHMS safety mission.

Sincerely,

William Quade
Associate Administrator
Office of Hazardous Materials Safety
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration