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General Comment

I am pleased to submit this letter in response to the Census Bureau's request for comments on its planned information collection request (ICR) for the 2027 Commodity Flow Survey (CFS), as invited by a Federal Register notice of ??May 20, 2026 (91 FR 29450). As a research professor at the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University, I write to provide enthusiastic support for OMB clearance of the 2027 CFS. I believe that the availability of reliable data from the 2027 CFS is essential for enabling intelligent, informed public and private decision-making.

In particular, I view the 2027 CFS as a critical asset in the design and implementation of federal policies that promote U.S. economic competitiveness. To that end, I request that Census Bureau include a description of the value and uses of the 2027 CFS for national

economic competitiveness policies in Section 2 of the ICR Supporting Statement Part A that it submits to OMB. As part of that discussion, I ask the Census Bureau to include the current or potential role of the CFS in the construction of the Bureau of Economic Analysis' new global value chain data series (https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/global-value-chains).

I also request that the Census Bureau include discussion in Section 2 of the ICR Supporting Statement Part A of the potential value of the CFS for use in the new BTS Freight Logistics Optimization Works (FLOW) Project. Currently up for OMB clearance, FLOW provides important real-time indicators of freight supply chain performance, a very important determinant of national economic competitiveness.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide support and comments regarding the 2027 CFS and look forward to reading the Census Bureau's ICR submission to OMB.