

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, and Science
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cartwright, Ranking Member Aderholt, Chair Shaheen, and Ranking Member Moran,

We the undersigned 20 organizations write to thank you for your strong support of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) through the FY22 level of \$116 million. We also wish to convey our strong support for the administration's request of \$141 million for the FY23 budget.

While a relatively small agency, BEA is enormously important to understanding our multi-trillion-dollar economy. BEA's National Income and Product Accounts provide an overall picture of the economic health of our economy as well as an essential sector-by-sector and geographic report. Its data are used by federal, state and local government to inform economic and fiscal policy and to spur economic growth and job creation and informing academic and applied economic research and research training activities. BEA data also play a vital role in guiding business and investment decisions in the private sector. The data provided by BEA, essential as it is to both public, private, and scientific decisions, are not available from any other source. We believe the extraordinary return on investment provided by the BEA thoroughly justifies a budget of \$141 million in FY23.

The requested amount for BEA would allow it to "accelerate improved measures of the U.S. health care sector"¹; and develop (i) "new data to track American competitiveness in global supply chains"; (ii) "a program to produce annual measures of personal income distribution across the nation and within states on a regular basis"; and (iii) a Space Economy Satellite Account. The \$141 million requested level also supports the implementation of the Evidence Act, additional capacity for the Evaluation Officer, consolidation of the Federal Data Service activities under the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

¹ Quotes in this paragraph are from the Department of Commerce Fiscal Year 2023 document, "The President's Budget and Congressional Budget Submission" for BEA: <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/FY2023-BEA-Congressional-Budget-Submission.pdf>.

In short, we believe that \$141 million for the BEA is an essential investment for promoting economic growth and job creation. Just as our economy is constantly changing, BEA is constantly improving its methods to adjust to our dynamic economy. This investment in our information infrastructure—small relative to our multi-trillion-dollar economy which it tracks—allows BEA to keep up with the changes in our economy and will repay the public many times over.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Planning Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association for Public Policy Analysis &
Management
Association for University Business and
Economic Research
Association of Academic Survey Research
Organizations
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users
Center for Data Innovation
Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council for Community and Economic
Research
Council of Professional Associations on
Federal Statistics
Economic History Association
Industry Studies Association
National Association for Business Economics
National Association of Development
Organizations
Outdoor Industry Association
Population Association of America
State International Development Organizations
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The staff contact for this letter is Steve Pierson, Director of Science Policy for the American Statistical Association (pierson@amstat.org; 703.302.1841.)