

April 14, 2023

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

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
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 Rogers, Ranking Member Cartwright, Chair Shaheen, and Ranking Member Moran,

We the undersigned organizations write to thank you for your strong support of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) through the FY23 level of \$130 million. We also wish to convey our strong support for the administration's request of \$154 million for the FY24 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 \$154 million in FY24.

The requested amount for BEA would allow it to (i) improve its coverage of its highly watched and influential National Economic Accounts, including national GDP, GDP by industry, and GDP satellite accounts such as outdoor recreation; (ii) better cover the economic activity of the United States with other countries through U.S. international transactions, trade in goods and services, and new foreign direct investment; (iii) further illuminate regional economic activity through GDP by county, regional input-output multipliers, and regional price parities. The requested level would support development of the National Secure Data Service to leverage government data to support evidence-based policymaking and a new program to "systematically

measure the contribution of environmental-economic activities to U.S. economic growth, employment, incomes, and productivity”.¹

In short, we believe that \$154 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 Association for Public Opinion
Research
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
International Economic Development Council
National Association for Business Economics
National Association of Development
Organizations
Outdoor Industry Association
Population Association of America
State International Development Organizations

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

¹ Quoted from a Department of Commerce FY24 document for BEA:
<https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/BEA-FY2024-Congressional-Budget-Submission.pdf>.