

## **FRIENDS OF LABOR STATISTICS**

*An Informal Network of Organizations and Individuals Reliant on BLS Statistics*

February 24, 2015

Thomas E. Perez  
Secretary of Labor  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez,

As users of and stakeholders in Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, we wish to acknowledge, commend, and express our thanks to you for the support the Department of Labor has given BLS in the 2016 President's Budget Request. We know that the Department has only so much to fit into its proposal to the Administration, and we are gratified that BLS restoration was a part of it.

As you know, the BLS is operating on the razor's edge in 2015. While there has been no announcement of programs' elimination, we are aware that any little change in fund availability could throw the agency off the edge. The 2016 request would put BLS back on solid ground with respect to its core programs. And, if realized, it would also permit the agency to undertake several initiatives that, through providing better bases for federal programs, would benefit the entire government.

We come from businesses, academia, and interest groups whose successes rely on a healthy Bureau of Labor Statistics. Thanks for your support in that regard.

Sincerely,

American Statistical Association  
APB Associates  
Association of Population Centers  
Richard Bednarzik, PhD, Georgetown University  
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
Maurine Haver, President, Haver Analytics  
Martha Jones, PhD, Vanderbilt University  
Robert M. Lewis, Principal, Development Strategies  
National Association for Business Economics  
National Association of Forensic Economics  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Beer Wholesalers Association  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
Randall Olsen, PhD, The Ohio State University  
Ataman Ozyildirim, The Conference Bureau  
Population Association of America  
Andrew Reamer, PhD, George Washington University  
Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments