

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 3, 2013

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

On November 18, 2013, the *New York Post* reported the U.S. Census Bureau knowingly provided the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) with inaccurate data for use in its employment situation reports, including those issued prior to the November 2012 elections.¹ According to an unnamed source, the numbers – which showed a decline in the unemployment rate from 8.1 percent in August 2012 to 7.8 percent in September 2012 – were manipulated.² The same source further asserts the Census Bureau still may be providing BLS with inaccurate data.³ Given the many applications of BLS data in the private and public sectors, these allegations are deeply troubling. To ensure the ongoing integrity of BLS data, we request information concerning the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) protocols for receiving, reviewing, and processing survey data provided to BLS by the Census Bureau.

We understand that the data referenced in the *New York Post* article was collected for the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey used by the BLS to measure the unemployment rate. We understand BLS has implemented various protocols to ensure the integrity of the data and the most accurate sampling of the unemployment figures. To ensure economic data collected and reported by government agencies are accurate, we request you provide the following information by December 17, 2013:

1. A copy of the memorandum of understanding between BLS and the Census Bureau for the collection and reporting of data for the CPS;
2. A description of all instances in which the Census Bureau reported to BLS its data were found to be inaccurate, and;
3. All documents and communications received by DOL from outside parties concerning allegations of manipulated data for use in the CPS.

If you are unable to provide the requested information by the date specified, please inform our respective committees in writing why you cannot meet the deadline, and the date by which you

¹ John Crudele, *Census 'Faked' 2012 Election Jobs Report*, N.Y. Post, Nov. 18, 2013. Available at <http://nypost.com/2013/11/18/census-faked-2012-election-jobs-report/>. (Accessed Nov. 22, 2013)

² *Id.*

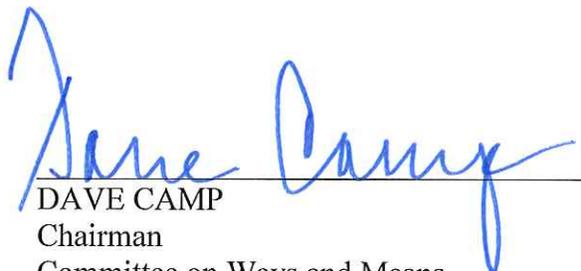
³ *Id.*

will provide the requested information. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Joe Wheeler of the Committee on Education the Workforce staff at (202) 225-7101 or Matt Weidinger of the Committee on Ways and Means staff at (202) 225-1025.

Sincerely,



JOHN KLINE
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce



DAVE CAMP
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means



TIM WALBERG
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
Subcommittee on Worker Protections



DAVE G. REICHERT
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Human Resources



CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Oversight

Enclosure

CC: The Honorable George Miller, Senior Democratic Member, Committee on Education and the Workforce

The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce