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March 23, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda
Acting Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) bill, I urge you to include language that provides flexibility and directs the Census Bureau to reevaluate outdated census tract boundaries that are harming job creation.

Certain census tracts throughout the country are already outdated and don't reflect the realities of the challenges facing local communities. In certain circumstances, arbitrary and out-of-date boundary tracts are hindering economic growth.

For example, in Bullhead City, Arizona, 175 jobs could be created if a review of eligible census tracts occurred. A review by the city found that "90% of the census tracts have the status of severely distressed, but the subject census tract is considered 'not eligible.' Allowing the tract in question to be reevaluated and considered eligible, would foster economic growth and create a significant amount of jobs in a rural community.

This problem is not unique to Bullhead City though and exists in other Arizona communities as well as communities throughout the country. Should you need more information about this request, please don't hesitate to contact me or my staff. Maps and more information are available upon request.

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress