



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MAY 25 2010

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman, Joint Economic Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6432

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

The enclosed article from the May 25, 2010, *New York Post* is a distortion of the U.S. Census Bureau's employment and reporting practices, and I felt it important to bring this to your attention and set the record straight.

First, we do not hire, then fire, and then rehire anyone. Any employee who is fired is fired for cause. We train and hire temporary workers for various operations, most significantly Non-Response Follow-Up, to complete work assignments. When the work is complete, the temporary worker goes into an inactive status. They may be reactivated if there is more work to do, or for another subsequent operation. At no time do we count a reactivation from non-working status as a "rehire."

The article goes on to state:

Labor doesn't check the Census hiring figure or whether the jobs are actually new or recycled. It considers a new job to have been created if someone is hired to work at least one hour a month.

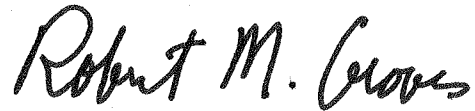
This is simply inaccurate. The Census Bureau reports to the Department of Labor and on our public Web site the number of people paid for work during a given week. We do not report the number of jobs. The Census Bureau reports the total number of unduplicated temporary 2010 census workers that earned any pay during a specific weekly pay period. Temporary workers earning any pay during the week are counted only once. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) measures changes in employment levels—not the actual level itself—and looks only at the week that includes the 12th day of the month. It is simply not possible for the Census Bureau to engage in the manipulation of data to artificially inflate the employment report of the BLS in the manner alleged by this news column.

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

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We hope this will help answer any questions you may receive based on this unfortunate characterization of our employment practices. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Congressional Affairs Office at (301) 763-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Groves". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Robert M. Groves
Director

Enclosure



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MAY 25 2010

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Chairman, Joint Economic Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6602

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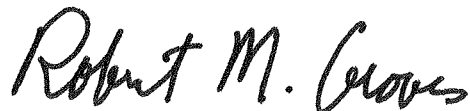
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MAY 25 2010

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Ranking Member
Joint Economic Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6602

Dear Senator Brownback:

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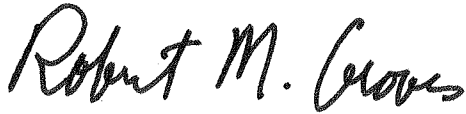
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The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
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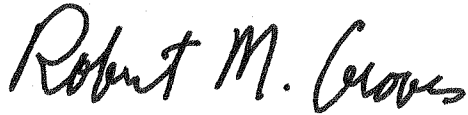
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