

April 24, 2009

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Chairman, Senator Joseph Lieberman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0703
Fax: 202.224.9750

Dear Senator Lieberman:

It is with great pleasure and serious conviction that we, on behalf of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), write in support of President Obama's nomination of Robert M. Groves as Director of the Bureau of the Census. AAPOR is the leading professional organization of public opinion and survey research professionals in the U.S., with nearly 2,200 members from government agencies, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, media corporations, and commercial polling firms.

Dr. Groves is widely recognized and respected as a highly distinguished and effective survey scientist, whose impact on both the science and the practice of survey research has been considerable and long-standing. His counsel and advice is widely sought by academic, commercial and government organizations throughout the world, including virtually every major statistical agency in the Federal government, where his efforts and impact have been especially strong and effective.

From 1990-1992, he served as Associate Director of Statistical Design, Standards and Methodology at the U.S. Census Bureau, recruited by Bureau Director Barbara Bryant, appointed by President George H.W. Bush, to lead and enhance the Bureau's performance in these areas. In 1991, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, a graduate program sponsored by the US Federal statistical system, whose mission is to provide rigorous methodological training for personnel who go on to staff federal statistical agencies. In effect, his entire career has been devoted to advancing the cause of better survey research and federal statistics, and it is particularly fitting and appropriate that he be chosen to lead the largest statistical agency in the world.

Dr. Groves has been a proponent, leader and inspirational force in AAPOR throughout his career, as the organization seeks to advance the quality of survey research. He served as AAPOR's president from 1995-96 and has won several honors from the organization, including the Innovator Award in 2000

for his efforts to establish survey methodology broadly as an important academic field and the AAPOR Award, the Association's highest honor, for exceptionally distinguished achievement, in 2001.

He is also a fellow of the American Statistical Association (2002), an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, a National Associate of the National Academies, National Research Council, former Chair of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association, and in 2008, he was given the Julius Shiskin Award for unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics.

Dr. Groves is a polymath, with leadership expertise in survey statistics, methods of data collection and survey nonresponse. He is the author of seven books and scores of scientific articles concerning the improvement of surveys. His work includes the influential books, *Surveys by Telephone*, *Survey Costs and Survey Errors*, and *Nonresponse in Household Interview Surveys*. In addition, he has been a primary force in a number of edited collections on survey methods, including *Measurement Error in Surveys*, *Survey Nonresponse and Telephone Survey Methodology*. His curriculum vita lists, in addition, a large number of journal publications.

Robert Groves is clearly one of the best qualified individuals in the nation to serve as Director of the Bureau of the Census. His confirmation will greatly enhance the careful, methodologically rigorous and objective conduct of the 2010 Census, while also ensuring the continued development and standards of excellence achieved by the great many other population-based and economic surveys conducted by the Census Bureau that provide the critical information required to understand and govern our nation.

Respectfully yours,



Richard A. Kulka
President



Nancy A. Mathiowetz
Past-President



Peter V. Miller
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