

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2020

Secretary Wilbur Ross  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

We write to express our concern with your September 28, 2020, announcement that the Census Bureau will conclude its 2020 Census self-response and field data collection operations nearly one month early, on October 5, 2020. We are concerned about the earlier deadline undercounting American citizens, specifically American Indians and Alaska Natives.

It is important that the Census Bureau make every effort to get an accurate population count of all communities, including Indian reservations. As you know, most Indian reservations have been identified as Hard-to-Count communities by the U.S. Census Bureau. Many reservation residents receive their mail at post office boxes, not physical residences, and as a result, they do not receive Census surveys by mail. Hand delivery to physical addresses is required. Furthermore, many reservation residents do not have internet access or computers and find it much more difficult to complete online surveys.

Of deep concern are reports that Indian Reservations in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains Regions are showing Census self-response rates in the low-20 percentage points while the national self-response rate is 66.5 percent. Given this significant disparity, we are concerned that concluding data collections operations on October 5, 2020, will not provide enough time to get an accurate population count across the nation.

We urge you to continue all 2020 Census self-response and field data collection operations through October 31, 2020, as originally planned. Thank you in advance for you attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



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M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator

/S/ Richard Blumenthal

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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



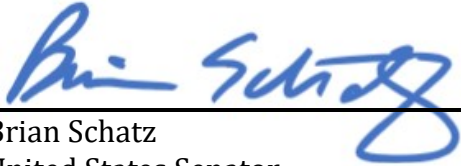
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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



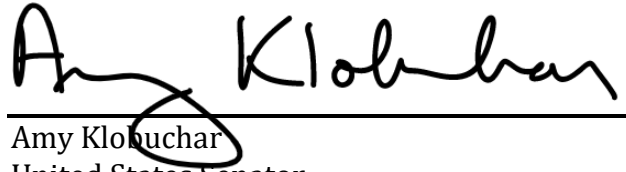
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator