

**Opening Statement of Ranking Member Michael R. Turner
“Improving Local Government Participation in LUCA”
2:00 PM, June 26, 2007, Room 2154 Rayburn**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this hearing on the Census Bureau’s Local Update of Census Addresses or as it is better known, the LUCA program.

Today, we will examine the issues surrounding the Census Bureau’s LUCA program. LUCA is a lesser known but vital program that, if implemented properly, will help ensure a fair and more accurate 2010 Decennial Census. In fact, a properly run LUCA program will potentially save taxpayers millions of dollars by making sure the Census targets correct addresses the first time and the only time.

I am hopeful that the Bureau will continue to work with this Subcommittee and local governments to improve the LUCA program. I am pleased that the Bureau leadership has already made significant adjustments to the LUCA program vis-à-vis the 2000 decennial census, including making available to localities key address documents in electronic form and for a longer period

of time. However, I am still concerned that for one reason or another, many localities, primarily in rural areas, will be left out of LUCA or will not have the capacity to take advantage of the program. I also have concerns that LUCA will not be properly included as part of the 2008 test.

Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of stakeholders that are interested in our hearing today. As you know the results of the decennial census will affect localities in areas such as federal funding allocations and how areas are designated. As a result it is important that we look at programs such as LUCA and work with stakeholders and the Bureau to solve problems and work through issues.

Our witnesses today will provide valuable information on this issue. Mr. Chairman, before I yield back, I want to recognize Director Kincannon for his hard work. Late last year, Director Kincannon announced his desire to step down and last week the President sent to the Senate a nominee to replace him. Louis Kincannon has dedicated 30 years of his life working for the federal government in several capacities and he will certainly be remembered fondly. I am thankful for Mr. Kincannon's leadership and am sure he is rooting for a quick confirmation of the

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President’s nominee so that he can enjoy a well earned break
from having to testify before us!

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.