



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of the Chief Information Officer**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

APR 20 2007

Gary D. Bass  
Executive Director  
OMB Watch  
1742 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Bass:

Thank you very much for agreeing to block public access on your website to all Federal Award ID numbers contained in the Federal Assistance Award Data System (FAADS). By agreeing to do so, you have taken an important step in helping to minimize the likelihood of any harm. Please indicate to your website's users that they should call 1-800-FED-INFO if they have any questions.

By way of background, the Bureau of the Census serves as the executive agent responsible for operating the FAADS, which is a central collection of selected, computer-based data on Federal financial assistance award transactions. This data is unrelated to information collected by the Census Bureau. Thirty-three agencies of the Executive Branch furnish data to the Census Bureau for inclusion in FAADS. As I previously explained to you, the Census Bureau took immediate action to block access to Federal Award ID numbers upon learning of the issue. Since that time, we have been participating in an aggressive effort to determine the scope of the issue and how best to remedy it.

In response to your April 16 letter, and as you requested yesterday, a plan to rectify the lack of a unique transaction identifier will be provided to you within 30 days. However, in the interest of time and avoiding any further exposure, I wanted to write to address the immediate issue of public access to Federal Award ID numbers. Thank you again for your prompt action on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Jarrell", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dave Jarrell  
Manager, Critical Infrastructure  
Protection Program