



台灣人公共事務會
Formosan Association for Public Affairs

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Ms. Ditas Katague
Chair, National Advisory Committee
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

June 21, 2016

Dear Ms. Katague:

The Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA) is a non-governmental organization that has worked since 1982 to advance the rights and interests of Taiwanese Americans. We hereby formally request that a check off box for "Taiwanese" be added under the race question (question six) on the 2020 Census form.

We have campaigned for a separate check off box under the race question for the past two decades, but were told – as a 1997 State Department memorandum to the Census Bureau stated- that the "listing of "Taiwanese" as a race in a Census questionnaire would inevitably raise sensitive political questions...contrary to the U.S. Government policy and U.S. national interest."

We believe however that the demographic count from the Census Bureau is a purely domestic American affair, and should not fall victim to international politics.

Meanwhile, there has been a continued increase in the population of Taiwanese Americans over the past decades. According to the Washington-based East-West Center, the Taiwanese American population in the 2000 Census was 144,795, while in the 2010 Census it was 230,382.¹ However, according to 2014 Homeland Security data on Lawful Permanent Residents, the Taiwanese American population accumulated between 1950 and 2014 to 472,222.² Therefore, we believe that a better total estimate of Taiwanese Americans today would be around 500,000.

Clearly, there are severe discrepancies between Federal Agencies when counting the Taiwanese American population. The Census Bureau can no longer ignore this.

FAPA's missions: (1) to promote international support for the right of the people of Taiwan to establish an independent and democratic country, and to join the international community; (2) to promote relations and cooperation between Taiwan and the United States; (3) to protect the right of self-determination for the people of Taiwan; (4) to promote peace and security for Taiwan; and (5) to advance the rights and interests of Taiwanese communities throughout the world.

That is why we urge the National Advisory Committee to recommend that the Census Bureau create a check off box for Taiwanese Americans on the 2020 Census form under question six, so that we will have more accurate data on how many Taiwanese Americans there are today.

We want to be counted!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Chen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PETER CHEN, President
Formosan Association
for Public Affairs

¹East-West Center <http://www.asiamattersforamerica.org/taiwan/data/population>

²Yearbook of Immigration Statistics: 2014 Lawful Permanent Residents (Table 2)<https://www.dhs.gov/yearbook-immigration-statistics-2014-lawful-permanent-residents>