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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4313**  
**April 19, 2021**

The Honorable Shalanda Young  
Acting Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Young,

I write to you regarding my concerns for your office's wrongful inclusion of Wichita Falls, TX in a recent list of cities with a population below 100,000 people. This list was included in a report that the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee sent to Nancy Potok, the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The inclusion of Wichita Falls in this list is an egregious error as Wichita Falls had a population of 104,553 people in the 2010 census, and as Wichita Falls has continually grown in population since that census.

As you may know, this list was promulgated as a part of your administration's recently proposed rulemaking to change the population threshold for a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) from 50,000 or more persons to 100,000 or more persons. These designations are critical to these communities, as they are used to determine eligibility for certain federal programs and federal funding. Some of these programs include the Community Development Block Grant, Federal Transit Administration grants, and Medicare's prospective payment system for acute care hospital inpatients.

While I do not agree with the proposed rulemaking and believe that communities with populations between 50,000 and 100,000 are economic hubs and job centers, the error to include Wichita Falls in a list of cities with a population under 100,000 is especially troubling. This is because, combined with this rulemaking, the wrongful inclusion of Wichita Falls will have grave implications on the people of Wichita Falls, as they would lose access to certain federal programs or see greatly diminished federal funding. At a time when COVID-19 has shuttered businesses across America, this mistake would result in unnecessarily obstructing an economic development lifeline from this community.

In your testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, you pledged to bolster fairness in the rule-making process. However, your administration's decision to wrongfully include Wichita Falls in this list will do the exact opposite of your pledge. As such, I urge you to carry-out your pledge for fairness by rectifying this mistake and by removing Wichita Falls from this list.

Thank you,



Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress