

Executive Summary of the Testimony of Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP
Acting Architect of the Capitol
April 15, 2010

It is a wonderful honor and privilege to be here as the Presidential nominee for the position of Architect of the Capitol. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all of the Members of the Nominating Committee for recommending me to President Obama to serve as the 11th Architect of the Capitol. I truly appreciate the trust that the Congress and the President have placed in me.

The position of Architect of the Capitol is about more than designing buildings. It's about managing and maintaining a small city comprised of iconic buildings, a rich history, and a notable infrastructure. Stewardship of the Capitol complex is vitally important and is a unique challenge. In order to meet future challenges, we must protect and preserve the past. This involves caring for aging buildings, while at the same time keeping pace with new technologies, reducing energy consumption, and increasing security requirements.

One of our most important challenges is a significant backlog of deferred maintenance and capital renewal projects – totaling in excess of \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years -- as well as security, life-safety and accessibility, and environmental requirements. Although every project is necessary, we realize that not all can be funded in these fiscally-challenging times. In this regard, I have successfully developed and implemented a robust and balanced process to prioritize projects based on facilities' conditions and the level of maintenance required to ensure they remain functional working environments for the Congress. This process uses several tools in the formulation of the project prioritization list including Facility Condition Assessments, the Capitol Complex Master Plan, and Jurisdiction Plans.

One of our biggest challenges is preserving the historic elements of our buildings, while at the same time making them as energy efficient as possible. With Congress's support, we have implemented programs and projects designed to save energy and conserve natural resources. A few of the sustainable practices we have adopted include using low-impact materials, installing energy efficient equipment, incorporating durable and high-performance systems and materials, investing in renewable energy, and encouraging and supporting a culture that promotes reuse and recycling. We have entered into Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) for the Senate and House Office Buildings and the Capitol Building that include \$93 million in planned facility infrastructure upgrades. These public-private partnerships will help us realize more than 15 percent reduction in total energy consumption of the Capitol complex.

To ensure that we continue to achieve energy reduction goals, we are evaluating proven technologies that could be implemented in our continued effort to increase energy efficiencies across the Capitol complex. For example, because the Capitol Power Plant (CPP) plays a critical role in our long-term energy conservation strategy, we are continually working to improve and upgrade operations there. We completed our Strategic Long-Term Energy Plan, to determine our future energy program planning, and explore various options for continued energy efficiencies. Among the options being considered are cogeneration, which simultaneously generates both electricity and heat, and the use of biofuels.

We are updating our Strategic Plan to set new goals and priorities that will drive this organization for the next five years. Our mission, and my pledge, is to serve Congress with a commitment to excellence. The successes the Architect of the Capitol has realized over the past few years are due to both Congress's support and the dedication of our remarkable workforce. They are deeply committed to our mission to serve Congress and the American public, and I am extremely proud to be a part of the AOC team. Should this Committee recommend that I be confirmed by the full Senate, I will be honored to continue to work with these very talented professionals as the 11th Architect of the Capitol.