Chairwoman Klobuchar, Ranking Member Fischer, Chairman Steil, and Ranking Member Morelle,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the work of the Capitol Police Board (Board) in safeguarding the Capitol campus. The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) remains dedicated to our partnership with the Senate and House Sergeants at Arms and the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) to ensure the AOC meets our mission's requirements and Congress' expectations.

The Capitol campus is the workplace for over 30,000 individuals. The AOC is responsible for the care and maintenance of the facilities encompassing over 18.4 million square feet and 570 acres of grounds. I am grateful for our hard-working, mission-focused employees who provide vital support — seen and unseen — serving Congress, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

The AOC plans, designs and implements physical security measures in close coordination with the Board. We provide input on the impacts of security decisions on the physical infrastructure and operations to balance the priorities of our work based on safety and security. Over the past two and a half years, the AOC worked with the USCP and Board members to repair or replace damaged elements, enhance facility components, and install critical support infrastructure.

With the support of Congress, and in partnership with the Board, the AOC has undertaken numerous projects that significantly enhance physical security throughout the campus. A vital aspect of implementation is the consistent application of security standards and continuous collaboration, thus helping the AOC to respond swiftly to emerging security requirements.

Emergency Preparedness

The AOC stresses emergency preparedness through training, processes and protocol standardization to ensure workforce safety. As the number of visitors to the Capitol campus continues to grow, offices return to pre-pandemic levels, and special events requiring distinct security considerations remain, our training and tools to support emergency preparedness have also increased. In Fiscal Year 2021, the AOC developed a comprehensive Emergency Management (EM) program centrally supporting all AOC jurisdictions and our partners in the legislative branch to improve staff preparedness. We augmented the number of assigned Office Emergency Coordinators (OECs) embedded in every layer of our organization. Currently, 170 OECs provide emergency planning and communication for the AOC.

We also updated the OEC Manual, provided online training, and increased the number of training and education opportunities for staff. In partnership with the USCP, the AOC hosted two "Office Hours," providing employees with essential safety and security information. The USCP similarly partnered with the AOC to provide in-person training sessions for Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) staff to address their concerns about returning to pre-COVID operations. We coordinated with the

Emergency Management Task Force (EMTF) to ensure the CVC staff could participate in training exercises. We provided long-range event calendars, which allowed them to adjust tour schedules for maximum participation.

Physical Security & Deferred Maintenance

The AOC prioritizes life and safety deferred maintenance projects such as replacing fire alarm systems and repairing and replacing infrastructure components. The deteriorating condition of foundational elements necessitates immediate attention to rectify the potential risks. Therefore, project deferred maintenance prioritization entails planning against potential infrastructure failures, natural disasters, emergencies, health crises, and other challenges in a unique environment as the Capitol campus.

Internal Measures

Maintaining a healthy cybersecurity posture is required to meet the agency's mission and protect sensitive information. The AOC focuses on a comprehensive strategy strengthened by continuous monitoring to proactively detect potential risks and fortify our defenses against diverse threats. We have undertaken initiatives to reinforce our cybersecurity measures ensuring our operations' resilience and reliability to preserve a secure industrial control system facilitating real-time reporting. Our business network is fortified through a comprehensive set of security appliances, protocols, policies and industry best practices. These measures work in tandem with the physical security safeguards implemented by the USCP. The multi-layered and comprehensive approach collectively supports protecting the AOC's critical systems from potential threats and vulnerabilities.

The AOC also made great strides to improve the internal air quality following lessons learned from the pandemic operations. We aim to ensure safe and comfortable indoor ventilation for building occupants. This initiative aligns with the post-pandemic guidance set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers. These guidelines emphasize the significance of adequately functioning ventilation systems that provide satisfactory indoor air quality tailored to the occupancy levels of each respective space. The AOC is committed to implementing and maintaining this program for the well-being of facility occupants.

Conclusion

The AOC is committed to fulfilling its role in safeguarding the physical security of the Capitol campus for visitors, staff and the entire congressional community. We acknowledge security measures and requirements are constantly evolving, and through coordination and communication, progress is achieved through our concerted efforts with the Board.

We remain dedicated to working closely with you, your staff, and the Appropriations Committees, and thank you for the assistance in facilitating our day-to-day operations, sustaining our resiliency efforts, and fostering strengthened collaboration essential to support the AOC's mission.