

Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch

BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

Architect of the Capitol  
Library of Congress  
Open World  
Office of Compliance  
March 1, 2012  
2:30 p.m., SD-138

The subcommittee will come to order.

Good afternoon everyone and welcome.

This is our first hearing of Fiscal Year 2013 and I want to start by welcoming my Ranking Member, Senator Hoeven. As everyone in this room knows, the bill we passed last year reflected the very tough spending decisions that had to be made, and I want to thank Senator Hoeven for working with me throughout the entire process. I'm looking forward to working closely together again this year to pass a Legislative Branch bill that funds the priorities of our agencies but also reflects the tight budget constraints under which we are still operating. I also want to welcome the other Members of the subcommittee, Senator Tester, Senator Brown, and Senator Graham.

So, we are back here again this year, faced with both similar funding constraints as last year, and equally tough decisions. We welcome the testimony today and in the weeks to come on the Fiscal Year 2013 budget requests as we review personnel, programmatic and construction needs. Today we will receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2013 budget requests from the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, the

Open World Leadership Center, and the Office of Compliance. I want to welcome our four witnesses today:

- Stephen Ayers, Architect of the Capitol;
- Dr. James Billington, Librarian of Congress;
- Ambassador John O’Keefe, Executive Director of the Open World Leadership Center; and
- Tamara Chrisler, Executive Director of the Office of Compliance.

It is good to have each of you here this afternoon.

Mr. Ayers, your budget request this year totals \$668 million – an increase of \$101 million or 17.7 percent over current year. No other Legislative Branch agency has this level of increase in their budget request. Understandably, the majority of your proposed increase – 46 percent – is for Capital Construction Projects, and much of that funding is to keep our campus operating safely and efficiently. And you have two large ticket items on your agenda for FY 13, Phase II of the Capitol Dome Rehabilitation; and the beginning of Phase II of the Capitol Power Plant chiller system replacement.

Obviously, there are going to be some very tough decisions before us, and if we are going to embark on these major rehab projects, we are going to have to look for savings in other places not only within the AOC but also across the other agencies of the Legislative Branch in an effort to contain the overall funding levels of this bill.

Dr. Billington – I want to welcome you and your Chief of Staff, Robert Dizard. This time last year, we were saying goodbye to CRS Director Dan Mulhollan after 42 years of service to Congress. It appears from the seats behind you that the Library has had a few more changes in the past year.

The Library's FY13 request totals \$603.6 million, an increase of \$16.2 million or 2.8 percent over the FY12 enacted level. I understand the requested increase in funding would cover mandatory pay related items and price level increases, would restore the funding level for the Copyright Office to the pre-FY12 rescission level, and would provide \$1.7 million for the Library to complete the transfer of special format collections to Modules 3 and 4 at Ft. Meade.

I also want to welcome Ambassador O'Keefe of the Open World Leadership Center. Your budget request totals \$10 million – a freeze at the FY 12 enacted level. I strongly support the work of Open World, and as the agency that sustained the largest percentage reduction in FY 12, I appreciate the fact that you are willing to do more with less. I look forward to hearing your testimony.

Ms. Chrisler, the Fiscal Year 2013 budget request for the Office of Compliance totals \$4.2 million – an increase of \$389,000 or 10 percent over the current year. We appreciate the services that your agency offers to both the employing offices and the employees of the Legislative Branch. We look forward to your testimony and to discussing the services your office provides within the tight budget constraints.

Now I'd like to turn to the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Senator Hoeven for his opening remarks.