

**STATEMENT OF
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ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL**

**Regarding Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations
U.S. SUPREME COURT, CARE OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

**Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives**

April 14, 2011

Madam Chairwoman, I am pleased to submit this formal statement regarding the Office of the Architect of the Capitol's (AOC's) Fiscal Year 2012 budget request for the care of the building and grounds of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCUS).

The AOC is responsible for the structural and mechanical care, maintenance, cleaning, and operation of the buildings and facilities supporting the Congress. This responsibility includes the Capitol Building, the House and Senate Office Buildings, as well as the U.S. Botanic Garden, the Library of Congress buildings and grounds, and the U.S. Capitol Police buildings and grounds. Our agency also undertakes the design and construction of new facilities and the renovation of existing facilities on behalf of the Congress.

For the Judicial Branch, the Architect of the Capitol, by authority of 40 U.S.C. 6111a-6111b, dated May 7, 1934, is responsible for the structural and mechanical care of the Supreme Court building and grounds, to include the design and construction of new facilities and the renovation of existing buildings.

Operations and Maintenance

The AOC's priorities continue to be the care and maintenance of the U.S. Supreme Court to ensure the safety and security of the Justices, Court personnel, and visitors, as well as to make improvements to the building and grounds. Our Fiscal Year 2012 budget request continues to focus on these important priorities, and therefore, we have requested \$8,504,000 to meet the

requirements of the Court for the care of the building and grounds. This request is \$151,000 more than the Fiscal Year 2011 assumed appropriation. Program increases totaling \$85,000 have been requested to fund two additional permanent positions. Adjustments to the base of \$66,000 are requested to cover costs for within grade increases, benefits adjustments and general inflationary costs for current operations and maintenance services.

During Fiscal Year 2010, we made significant improvements to the building systems and grounds, and we continued to refine and enhance our maintenance processes. Some of the projects that were completed include Phase II of the planned roof repairs, and the partial installation of roof fall protection and lightning protection systems. We also surveyed the East Conference room and restored the highly decorative plaster ceiling and oak walls. We installed ADA-compliant water coolers in public spaces; made repairs to the central vacuum system; replaced the sump pumps serving the North and South drives; upgraded the building cable television system, and renovated a number of private restrooms. Our dedicated staff at the Court also conducted a condition survey of all existing exterior bronze elements, and continued pointing and grouting interior and exterior marble joints.

In addition, we continued our successful program of tracking the ongoing preventive maintenance of mechanical and other equipment, and bar coding these assets to better facilitate routine, scheduled servicing. Our customary care and maintenance of the facility includes pressure washing the annex garage concrete and marble terraces, repairing and painting fountain concrete, and performing maintenance on the grounds and in the interior courtyards. In addition, numerous minor repairs and improvements were made to the building's plumbing, heating/ventilating/air conditioning (HVAC), and electrical systems. As part of the ongoing building security project, we recently installed new infrastructure, raceways, and security devices.

Building Modernization Project Status Update

I am pleased to report that the U.S. Supreme Court Building Modernization Project has reached substantial completion, and that the project remains within budget. This two-phased construction project began in summer 2004 and reached substantial completion in January 2011. In Fiscal Year 2007, an additional \$6.3 million was appropriated to attain full funding for the estimated cost to complete, which brings the appropriated budget authority to \$122.3 million. Completion of punch list, administrative closeout, and change order negotiation remain to be completed for the project to reach final completion.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, we recognize that the current fiscal environment presents a very difficult challenge for all of us to do more with less funding. We strive to make the maximum use of every taxpayer dollar, and we continue to identify cost savings and efficiencies. However, as stewards of these historic facilities, such as the Supreme Court Building, it is important that we continue to invest in the Supreme Court's infrastructure to ensure the seat of our Federal judicial system continues to endure. Our budget request for Fiscal Year 2012 reflects our serious efforts to balance our stewardship responsibilities with fiscal responsibility. We will continue to work closely with this Subcommittee and the Court on these important matters. We appreciate your continued support of our efforts.