



Congressman José E. Serrano

Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

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Opening Statement of Chairman José E. Serrano Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee Hearing on the FY2010 Budget of the General Services Administration May 12, 2009

Our hearing today is about the General Services Administration. Maybe it's fitting that we begin with GSA, since they provide the foundation for so much of what the Federal Government does. GSA is the agency that helps make sure Federal workers have a place to work, with lights and heat, and with the computers, telephones, equipment, and vehicles they need to do their job.

In addition to the services GSA provides directly, it's also responsible for developing government-wide policies in areas like procurement and information technology, in order to keep Federal practices up-to-date, fair, efficient, and transparent.

A few months ago, we handed GSA another large job. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriated almost \$6 billion to GSA, mostly for construction of new facilities, and for renovation and modernization of old ones in order to create "high performance green buildings". Another part of the funding is for purchasing more energy-efficient vehicles for the Federal fleet.

The idea is to put people back to work, building things the country needs, while reducing energy consumption and environmental impact. The Recovery Act roughly tripled GSA's construction management workload—and we told them to get the work going as quickly as possible, and to do innovative and cutting-edge things while they're at it.

So today we want to hear how GSA is doing. We look forward to a progress report on implementation of the Recovery Act, as well as to an explanation of the priorities that GSA and the Administration are setting in the FY 2010 budget.

Our witness today is Paul Prouty, the Acting Administrator of GSA. Mr. Prouty is one of those career public servants who do so much to keep the government

running. He started with GSA more than 38 years ago as an intern in the real estate program. Since then he's held a variety of positions with the Public Buildings Service, and has been Regional Administrator for the Rocky Mountain Region. Along the way, Mr. Prouty has twice won the GSA Distinguished Service Award as well as a Presidential Meritorious Rank Award. He found himself as Acting Administrator just as the Recovery Act was enacted. Thus, it has been Mr. Prouty and his team of career professionals at GSA who have taken the lead in planning and launching the rather extraordinary effort called for by that legislation.

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Congressman José E. Serrano has represented the Bronx in Congress since 1990. He is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.