



*American Association of Law Libraries*  
MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

March 26, 2007

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Chair, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Zach Wamp  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chair Wasserman Schultz and Ranking Member Wamp:

The American Association of Law Libraries looks forward to working with you and members of the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch on important issues regarding funding for the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) and the agency's programs and services for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We write today to urge the Subcommittee to fund fully GPO's FY 2008 appropriations request of \$181.97 million. This amount includes \$45.61 million for the Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account that funds the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), \$109.54 million for Congressional Printing and Binding, and \$26.82 million for the revolving fund.

The American Association of Law Libraries is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5000 members nationwide. Our members respond to the legal information needs of legislators, judges, and other public officials at all levels of government, corporations and small businesses, law professors and students, attorneys, and members of the general public. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

AALL has long supported the programs and operations of the GPO and we are proud of the fact that 12% of libraries that participate in the FDLP are law libraries. We believe that full FY 2008 funding is crucial because the current continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 20, resulted in lower levels of FY 2007 funding for GPO's many important programs, including the S&E. GPO's FY 2007 funding request for the S&E included \$2 million for the print distribution of the 2006 *U.S. Code*, a core document of democracy, to depository libraries. It also included \$8 million for GPO's digital initiatives. These very important projects that were not funded last year are needed to

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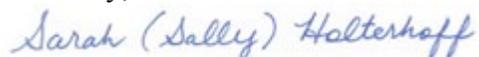
modernize GPO's technologies and systems for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They include: digitizing pre-1976 cataloging records; cataloging documents harvested from agency Web sites; improving the *GPO Access* system; and the authentication of online publications. These projects will improve significantly the public's access to Federal government information. We urge you to agree to GPO's request of \$45.61 million for the S&E in FY 2008.

In addition, we urge you to support GPO's request of \$109.54 million for Congressional Printing and Binding (CP&B). Access to legislative information—bills, committee hearings (full published transcripts as opposed to hearing statements posted to committee Web sites), reports, prints, documents and other materials—is crucial to the public and the legal community's ability to monitor and engage in the legislative process. Full funding is especially important for FY 2008 so that GPO is able to publish all the important congressional documents of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. While we support making these materials available electronically in a timely manner through *GPO Access*, it is important to acknowledge the continued need for the print distribution of legal materials to depository libraries because print is both *official* and *authentic* and the electronic versions of these legal resources are not. CP&B funding is also important to ensure that the 2006 *U.S. Code* is published in a timely fashion.

Last but not least, we urge the Subcommittee to support GPO's request of \$26.82 million for the revolving fund. This request includes \$10.5 million for the continuing development of the Future Digital System (FDsys) which, we believe, is crucial to GPO's future. It also includes \$9.37 million to fund a number of other essential information technology infrastructure projects; \$3.95 million for building maintenance and repairs; and \$3 million for workforce retraining and restructuring.

We respectfully urge your support for GPO by approving Acting Public Printer William H. Turri's FY 2008 appropriations request in its entirety. While this represents a considerable increase, full funding is vital so that GPO is able to fulfill its mission of disseminating Federal government information of all three branches of government. We ask that you please include this statement as part of the Subcommittee's record for the March 27, 2007, hearing on GPO's FY 2008 Budget / Printing Technology in the 21st Century. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Sarah (Sally) Holterhoff  
President  
American Association of Law Libraries