November 12, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Committee on Rules & Administration
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Committee on Rules & Administration
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

On behalf of the undersigned library associations, we welcome the Committee’s nomination hearing for the Director of the Government Publishing Office (GPO). GPO is the federal government’s leader in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information. As the Director has the important role of overseeing GPO’s public access programs, including the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), our associations are interested in a strong future for the agency. We look forward to learning more about the views and qualifications of the nominee, Hugh Nathanial Halpern, to lead GPO’s work to ensure Americans have access to information about their federal government.

GPO administers the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), a collaboration with more than 1,100 libraries nationwide that provides essential information to America’s businesses, legal system, researchers, and the general public, by helping them access federal laws, regulations, and publications.

GPO also provides permanent public access to official government information from all three branches through its online repository, govinfo.gov; Congressional publishing; and collecting, cataloging, and preserving government publications.

These critical GPO services are important to America’s libraries and the communities we serve. We encourage the Committee to ask the nominee how he would lead and modernize these services if confirmed as Director. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Feltren at efeltren@aall.org or (312) 205-8010.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
American Library Association (ALA)
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)