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Contact: Andrew Sherman

202-512-1991

asherman@gpo.gov

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PUBLIC PRINTER APPEALS HOUSE CUTS IN GPO's FY 2001 FUNDING

Public Printer Michael F. DiMario today sent a letter to Rep. Charles Taylor, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations, and to other key Members of the House and Senate, expressing his "profound concern and dismay" with the cuts in GPO's funding for FY 2001 that were agreed to by the full House Appropriations Committee on May 9.

The Committee recommendation cut GPO's overall appropriations by more than 25% from the current level of funding for FY 2000, the largest percentage reduction of any legislative branch entity, from \$103.2 million to \$77.1 million. It cut the Salaries and Expenses of the Superintendent of Documents from the current level of \$29.9 million to \$11.6 million, a reduction of 61%. GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation was cut by 11%, from \$73.3 million to \$65.5 million.

GPO had requested a total of \$121.3 million for FY 2001, including \$80.8 million for Congressional Printing and Binding, \$34.5 million for Salaries and Expenses of the Superintendent of Documents, and \$6 million to cover extraordinary expenses associated with the replacement of GPO's air conditioning system. The full Committee did not recommend funding for the air conditioning system.

In his letter, the Public Printer said "the cuts will mean the reduction of 435 skill GPO personnel and the elimination of public access to a significant body of Government information, and could jeopardize GPO's ability to support Congress' printing and information product needs." He urged the restoration of funding to the levels requested by GPO earlier this year.

DiMario said the cut to the Superintendent of Documents appropriation "will have a disastrous impact on public access to Federal Government information by literally dismantling the Federal Depository Library Program, the Government's primary and longest-serving information dissemination activity." There are currently 1,337 depository libraries nationwide, serving an estimated 9.5 million people annually.

The Public Printer pointed out that these cuts would terminate public access to nearly 25,000 Government titles that are currently available only as tangible products, including most congressional hearings; eliminate public access to the print versions of another 15,000 titles such as the U.S. Code and Supreme Court reports; force a two-thirds reduction in GPO's library programs staffing, terminating virtually all depository

library support services; and eliminate both the international exchange of official Government publications with other nations as well as the statutory distribution of official U.S. Government documents to the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

Where congressional printing is concerned, DiMario pointed out that the Committee specifically recommended eliminating the Congressional Record Index as well as the 2000 edition of the U.S. Code, the Congressional Directory, the congressional Serial Sets, memorial addresses and nominations, other publications such as Our Flag, and engineering and agricultural reports submitted by Federal agencies to Congress. He noted that the Committee's cuts would jeopardize funding for the January 2001 Presidential inauguration; printing for the congressional Pictorial Guide, Economic Indicators, House and Senate telephone directories, and treaties; printing for other documents such as The Capitol Magazine, the quarterly Statements of Disbursements of the House and the semiannual Report of the Secretary of the Senate; and printing performed under congressional resolutions, such as the pocket Constitution, How Our Laws Are Made, and Our American Government.

The Public Printer said these cuts, as well as the elimination of printing for depository libraries, would force the reduction of several hundred skilled GPO production personnel, "whose value to Congress-in providing essential congressional printing services and making electronic information available via [GPO Access](#)-has been praised time and again by the Members and leadership of both the House and the Senate."

In his letter, DiMario appealed a House directive to transfer GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation to the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate in FY 2003, saying it is not clear how joint items would be paid for under this proposal. He also appealed a directive for the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress to study the transfer of Superintendent of Documents operations to the Library, noting this proposal has been reviewed and rejected a number of times in previous years.

The Public Printer concluded his letter by appealing once again for the restoration of funding to levels previously requested by GPO. Full House action is expected later this month.

(Self-Mailer)



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