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PUBLIC PRINTER TESTIFIES AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS HIGHLIGHTS FIRST-EVER GPO SURVEY ON CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING NEEDS

WASHINGTON—Public Printer Bill Boarman discussed the first-ever comprehensive survey of every congressional office on their need for printed products. Developed and administered by GPO, the online survey asks Member, committee, and other offices in the Senate and House on their needs for the daily Congressional Record, the Congressional Record Index, and other publications.

The survey was just one of the topics the Public Printer discussed at the House Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations and the Subcommittee on Oversight for the Committee on House Administration. Boarman explained how GPO has transformed itself into a digital information platform for the entire Federal Government. Even though there are proposals to reduce Congressional printing, 70% of the cost is for the prepress functions to create the digital version of those publications. A more detailed explanation is illustrated in this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPC5B-jUTsE&feature=channel_video_title

Testifying before the Oversight Subcommittee on his return to GPO after 35 years, Public Printer Boarman said "it was like the Tale of Two Cities – it was the best of times and it was the worst of times. I found a workforce dedicated and highly trained and committed to GPO's mission. I am so proud to be able to lead them each day as they accomplish amazing things for their customers and especially Congress every day."

"At the same time, I found an agency where overhead costs had mushroomed by 50% in the past 5 years. I found an agency top heavy with senior-level managers, some of whom spent what was in my opinion an excessive amount of time on travel, including an astonishing amount of travel overseas...And there was a growing volume of uncollected bills to Federal agencies that GPO seemed unable to resolve. This pattern of excessive spending and costs was simply unsustainable."

To begin addressing these problems, Boarman said "we cut our appropriations request for FY 2012 by more than \$5 million from what was originally submitted to OMB late last year. We cut GPO's annual spending plan as previously submitted to the Joint Committee on Printing by \$15 million. We reduced the number of senior-level managers. We implemented controls on hiring, travel, and related discretionary accounts to stem the flow of spending in these areas...We created a task force to recover outstanding payments from Federal agencies...We worked with the appropriations committees to resolve our funding for FY 2011 at about \$135.1 million. This is a significant reduction from the continuing level of \$147.4 million and a far cry from the \$166.6 million requested by previous GPO management a year ago."



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In addition to the congressional survey, Boorman spoke at both hearings about other new initiatives GPO is undertaking, including GPO's willingness to make additional space available in its buildings for other Government organizations, consolidating GPO's police force with the U.S. Capitol Police, and ways to reduce GPO's rate of EEO complaints.

With 2,200 employees, GPO is the Federal Government's primary resource for producing, procuring, cataloging, indexing, authenticating, disseminating, and preserving the official information products of the U.S. Government in digital and tangible forms. GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government, including U.S. passports for the Department of State as well as the official publications of Congress, the White House, and other Federal agencies. In addition to publication sales, GPO provides for permanent public access to Federal Government information at no charge through GPO's Federal Digital System (www.fdsys.gov) and through partnerships with approximately 1,220 libraries nationwide participating in the Federal Depository Library Program. For more information, please visit www.gpo.gov. Follow GPO on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/USGPO> Twitter <http://twitter.com/USGPO> and on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/user/gpoprinter>.

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