



# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*Senator Wayne Allard, Chairman  
Legislative Branch Subcommittee*

*PRESS RELEASE*

For Release:  
April 13, 2005

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## **SENATOR ALLARD PRESIDES OVER FIRST MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE IN 109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) assumed chairmanship of the Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee Wednesday at the first meeting of this panel in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, and heard testimony from Secretary of the Senate Emily Reynolds and Architect of the Capitol Alan Hantman, who discussed the Capitol Visitors Center building project.

“I look forward with pleasure to learning about the key issues and budget priorities within each of the Legislative Branch agencies,” Chairman Allard said.

Overall, the request for the Legislative Branch totals \$4.03 billion, an increase of \$482 million or 13.5 percent over the fiscal year 2005 level.

“Clearly, in the constrained budget environment in which we will be operating, an increase of this level will be difficult if not impossible to provide. So we will be seeking to ensure that all agencies have prioritized their budget requests, are taking steps to operate as cost-effectively as possible, and are eliminating unnecessary spending,” Senator Allard said.

Ms. Reynolds’ budget request totals nearly \$23 million, an increase of 7 percent over fiscal year 2005, primarily to accommodate routine pay and inflation-related increases, as well as to make some upgrades in several areas.

The Architect of the Capitol put forward a budget request totaling \$506 million, an increase of \$157 million over the current fiscal year. The increase is largely associated with several construction projects including completion of the Capitol Visitor Center, construction of the Library of Congress Storage Modules at Ft. Meade, MD, and a new off-site delivery facility for the Capitol Police, as well as start-up costs and new personnel for the CVC.

“There are a number of issues I’d like to explore today. Most important of course, is the schedule and budget for completion of the Capitol Visitor Center,” said Chairman Allard. “As I understand it, while much progress has been made, there is still a long way to go before the facility can be open to the public, and the schedule remains unclear. There have been significant difficulties with this project – including coordinating two major construction contractors, weather-related delays, unforeseen site conditions and frankly serious management problems.”

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“While it is too late to make major changes to how the project is being run, it is my expectation that you will make every effort to demand the best from your contractors, provide the Congress with a balanced assessment of progress as the project continues, and accept the counsel of the Government Accountability Office which has been monitoring the project and providing recommendations from the start,” said Chairman Allard.

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