

**Chairman Steve Daines Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

**Hearing to Review the FY2019 Budget Request for the Library of Congress and the
Architect of the Capitol**

May 8, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

Good afternoon. The subcommittee will come to order. I'd like to welcome everyone to the second of our fiscal year 2019 budget hearings for the Legislative Branch appropriations subcommittee.

Today we have with us the Honorable Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, and the Honorable Stephen Ayers, Architect of the Capitol. I appreciate the willingness of the witnesses to appear before the subcommittee today and look forward to their testimony.

I'd like to start by thanking both of you for taking time to meet with me and introducing me to each of your agencies.

Mr. Ayers, being able to get up close and see some of the ongoing projects around campus has given me a greater appreciation for all that your agency does. It is a huge responsibility to maintain our facilities for those who work here and the millions who visit each year, while also preserving our historic buildings.

And Dr. Hayden, I greatly enjoyed seeing some of the many treasures the Library has in its vast collection, and getting to meet some of your talented staff who are so passionate about what they do and are a true asset to the Library.

I'd also like to mention my support of the Veterans History project at the Library which collects, preserves and makes accessible the accounts of American war veterans for the benefit of future generations. In FY2017, the project received 4,335 collections. And I'm proud to say that our office has helped submit over 75 interviews since 2015 for Montana veterans.

Looking forward to FY2019, the total budget request for the Library is \$706.1 million in appropriated funds, an increase of \$36.2 million above the FY 2018 enacted level. The request supports continued investment in IT modernization efforts across the Library, including the

Copyright Office and CRS. It also focuses on increased staff capacity to address the backlogs in collection processing, and Copyright registration.

The Architect of the Capitol's budget request for FY 2019 totals \$744.9 million, an increase of \$32.8 million above FY 2018 enacted level. Of this request, \$198 million is for capital projects around the campus, and \$434.9 million is for the operating budgets of each jurisdiction to maintain facilities on a daily basis.

The Architect's request also seeks to address a backlog of deferred maintenance totaling \$1.5 billion while also providing for critical life safety projects across all of its jurisdictions.

I look forward to our discussion today and learning more about your specific requests and understanding each of your agencies' priorities in the coming fiscal year.

I'd like to turn now to my Ranking Member, Senator Murphy, for any opening remarks he may like to make.

###