

Senate Rules Committee to Hold Smithsonian Oversight Hearing

-Hearing scheduled for April 18 at 10 a.m.-

Washington, DC – U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Robert Bennett (R-Utah), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, today announced plans to hold an oversight hearing on April 18, 2007, on the Smithsonian Institution.

Date: Wednesday, April 18
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: The Senate Rules and Administration Committee
Hearing Room
301 Russell Senate Office Building

“The Smithsonian is one of the premier institutions in the world. Our committee is committed to ensuring that its Administration maintains the public trust,” Senator Feinstein said. **“This hearing comes in the wake of reports by the Smithsonian’s Inspector General which have raised questions about the Smithsonian’s salary and spending practices.”**

“In recent years, the Smithsonian has opened several new museums, including the American Art Museum/Portrait Gallery, the American Indian Museum and the Udvar-Hazy Center and plans are now underway for its 19th museum—the National Museum of African American History and Culture. This is a great accomplishment,” Senator Feinstein said. **“But serious issues remain – including the deterioration of its physical plant and a huge backlog in maintenance and capital improvement requirements. It is imperative that we develop a better working partnership between the Smithsonian and Congress.”**

Senator Bennett said, **“For more than 160 years the people of the United States, scholars and visitors from around the world have**

