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## **GPO Makes FY 2004 Appropriations Presentation to Senate Committee**

Appearing for the first time before the Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee on March 27, 2003, Public Printer of the United States Bruce R. James testified on behalf of the GPO's funding request for fiscal year 2004.

"I intend to do my best to uphold the tradition of the office while providing the leadership to guide the GPO into a new era, to ensure that it remains as relevant and necessary to the information needs of Congress, Federal agencies, and the public in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as it was for the first 140 years of its existence. With just over three months on the job, I have begun to carry out that promise," said James, citing major changes in GPO's organization, training policy, employee communications, customer service, strategic and contingency planning, and technology review.

"The 19<sup>th</sup> century is not coming back," said James, citing the revolutionary changes brought about by electronic information technologies. "We must take a new look at the changing needs of our customers and develop a deeper understanding of our true strengths so that we can plan for and build a new business model that will allow us to meet their information demands in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." He vowed to lead the transformation of the GPO into a cutting-edge enterprise designed to "capture digitally, organize, maintain, authenticate, distribute, and provide permanent public access to, the information products and services of the Federal Government."

In making the funding request for 2004, James said "GPO needs funding not only to continue product and service provision, but to begin making the investments we know are needed now to position us for the future."

For the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, the GPO is requesting an increase of just 1.7% over current year funding to fully cover Congress's legislative printing needs, including the *Congressional Record*, bills, reports, hearings, documents, and related products required for the legislative process.

For the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, which covers the Federal Depository Library Program, **GPO Access** ([www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess](http://www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess)) and other significant Government information dissemination programs, the GPO is asking for an increase of 3% to cover mandatory pay and benefits increases as well as price level changes.

To begin investing in the future, the GPO is requesting additional funds amounting to slightly less than 2% of GPO's total annual budget. For the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation, James cited the need for \$4.1 million to replace obsolete technology used by the **GPO Access** system by upgrading its search and retrieval system, now nearly a decade old.

Also requested is \$10 million to cover the costs of a retirement incentive program to enable the GPO to manage the size, composition, and skills of its workforce as required by rapidly changing technology.

In addition, the GPO is seeking two technical legislative changes to Title 44 of the U.S. Code. The changes will improve the ability to attract and retain leadership talent and provide authority to accept contributions of equipment and services as well as transfer or donate surplus equipment to appropriate entities.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the GPO has 3,000 employees in more than two dozen locations nationwide. It is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government. In addition to its own production facilities, the GPO maintains a pool of thousands of private sector vendors throughout the country to produce print and other information products. The GPO also distributes Government publications to the public via a sales program and through a nationwide network of more than 1,200 Federal depository libraries. GPO's Web site, **GPO Access**, at [www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess](http://www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess), provides free online public access to more than 225,000 Federal Government titles. For more information about the GPO, go to the agency's Web site at [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov).