



Congressman José E. Serrano

Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

For Immediate Release: April 3, 2008

Contact: Philip Schmidt, (202) 225-4361

Opening Statement of Chairman José E. Serrano Hearing on the General Services Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request April 3, 2008

The subcommittee will hear testimony today on the subject of the fiscal year 2009 budget request of the General Services Administration - GSA. The GSA has been supporting federal agencies and their workers since 1949 by acquiring goods and providing services and facilities to support the needs of those agencies.

The GSA performs a wide range of services from the construction of border patrol stations to the management of many e-gov initiatives. Additionally, the GSA coordinates and evaluates government-wide policies related to the management of government property, technology and administrative services.

With all of these duties, it is important to ensure that the GSA conducts itself in an unbiased and fair manner in negotiating and awarding contracts for the very services our government uses on a daily basis. I am especially troubled by the refusal of a vendor – the fairness of whose contract had been called into question- to cooperate with an Inspector General investigation into the matter.

Additionally, I am concerned about the recent court ruling ordering GSA to stop work on a \$50 billion dollar contract award. I believe that all of us here owe an obligation to ensure that money spent by the GSA is money well spent- and to do that we must have cooperation from all sides, both at the GSA and by the private vendors hired.

Today, we welcome back GSA Administrator Lurita Doan to discuss her agency's fiscal year 2009 budget submission. This is Ms. Doan's second appearance before this subcommittee in support of her agency's budget request.

While much of GSA's activity is driven by fees, approximately \$8 billion of the budget request will require action by this subcommittee. This year's request includes some interesting proposals, including a new pilot program for real

property disposal, as well as a request to reorganize some of the agency's citizen services. Additionally, the request includes funding to assist agencies in the Presidential transition. Administrator Doan, this subcommittee looks forward to the remarks you will make today.

###

Congressman José E. Serrano has represented the Bronx in Congress since 1990. He is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.