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Letter to Mary Landrieu, May 17, 2007

Kenneth Hirsh

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May 17, 2007

The Honorable Mary Landieu
Chair, Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Hart Senate Office Building, SH-724
Washington, DC 20510-1804

VIA FACSIMILE (202) 224-9735

Dear Madam Chair Landieu:

On behalf of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL) and our over 625 SEAALL members, I write today to ask you, as chair of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, to support the full FY2008 funding request of the U.S. Government Printing Office.

SEAALL is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), with members in all of the above states and territories. We share AALL’s mission to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

Mary Alice Baish, AALL’s Associate Washington Affairs Representative, testified before the House Legislative Branch Subcommittee on May 1. We endorse her statement in support of GPO’s FY 2008 appropriations request (attached). SEAALL is committed to public access to Government information and a robust Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

There are more than 1200 Depository Libraries nationwide, and 26 of them are in your district. Of these, 6 are law libraries:

- U.S. Court of Appeals/Fifth Circuit Library
- Law Library of Louisiana/Louisiana Supreme Court
- School of Law Library/Loyola University, New Orleans
- Law Center Library/Southern University
- School of Law Library/Tulane University
- Paul M. Hebert Law Center/Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

www.aallnet.org/chapters/seaall
They need your support to ensure that your constituents have easy, no-fee access to Federal
government information, both current and historic. Each library has very committed librarians
who serve your constituents every day—whether they need a Congressional hearing published
fifty years ago, the latest Census data available only online, or expert help to navigate complex
agency Web sites.

We respectfully urge you to agree to the requested levels of GPO’s Congressional Printing &
Binding, Salaries & Expenses, and revolving funds for the following reasons:

• First, print is still the most useful format for certain types of information and certain categories
  of users. Print formats are required to meet the needs of the legal community because print is the
  only format that is both official and authentic. Funding is needed to ensure that the 2006 U.S.
  Code and the essential congressional resources of the 110th Congress are published and distributed
to depository libraries in a timely manner.

• Second, GPO’s electronic initiatives are needed to replace obsolete technology and upgrade
electronic services for the 21st Century. The S&E request includes crucial funding to improve the
GPO Access system, catalog documents harvested from agency Web sites and authentic online
publications.

• GPO’s request for the revolving fund includes $10.5 million for the continuing development of
the Future Digital System, which is essential to GPO’s future. With your funding support to
complete FDsys, the first public release will be next December.
We appreciate your support of the U.S. Government Printing Office and its critical role in providing your constituents with local access to Federal government information. We invite you to visit the depository libraries in your District to see for yourself the important role they have in serving your constituents. We urge you to fund fully GPO's FY 2008 budget request. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hirsh
SEAALL President

Enclosure