

Opening Statement: Chairman James Moran

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request
Smithsonian Institution
Dr. G. Wayne Clough, Secretary

April 14, 2010

Welcome. We will have a very busy and interesting session so I want to get started right away. Today we will examine the budget requests for five of our Nation's leading cultural and knowledge generating institutions: the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, the Kennedy Center, the Woodrow Wilson Center, and the Presidio Trust. Our plan is deal with each institution one at a time, giving each witness a chance to make their case, and for the Committee members to pursue issues of interest.

First, I would like to welcome Dr. Wayne Clough, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. This subcommittee held an oversight hearing on the Smithsonian last December. At that hearing the GAO and the Smithsonian's Inspector General reviewed the progress the Institution is making to implement important governance reforms. Previously, there were major concerns about Smithsonian management before the time of Secretary Clough. I think it is safe to say that the Members were generally pleased that the Secretary and his team have made as much progress as they have. It is important that we examine the Smithsonian's budget request closely because this institution is important to the Nation and it is a keystone to the National Capital region's culture and tourism.

I am generally pleased with the Smithsonian's fiscal year 2011 budget request. It appears to be a responsible request. It helps to see it organized around the four major themes of the new strategic plan: mysteries of the universe, biodiversity, valuing world cultures, and understanding the American experience. The request builds on this subcommittee's work last year to strengthen the collections, and the request has a small, targeted increase for key research and science. I will be interested to hear more about the Smithsonian's role in climate change science. The capital budget also has \$20 million for design of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture to be built next to the Washington Monument. Lastly, I note the request has \$106 million for baseline facilities revitalization, which will help with the huge deferred maintenance backlog.

Before I ask you to begin your statement, I would like to turn to our Ranking Member. Mr. Simpson, would you like to make a statement?