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GPO DELIVERS ON PROMISES MADE TO CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, DC-During appropriations hearings in front of Congress last year, Public Printer of the United States Bruce James told Senate and House Members that the U.S. Government Printing Office would begin implementing a strategic vision, restore GPO's finances and run more like a business. Today, James delivered on those promises when he appeared before the U.S. Senate's Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations to present the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2006.

"The first full year of GPO's efforts to transform the agency into a modern digital information processing facility has proven to be a successful and productive 12 months. We have restored the GPO's finances to a positive basis for the first time in five years -- taking the GPO from a \$33 million loss to an \$11 million gain," said James. "We have implemented best practices from both the public and private sectors, set in motion our strategic plan for the future of Government information, and made adjustments to our operations and the way we do business."

GPO is actively working on developing the Future Digital Content Management System that will allow the agency to obtain, preserve, and provide access to information produced by all three branches of Government, and to material currently in the custody of the GPO and Federal depository libraries nationwide. This system will enable GPO's customers to electronically access the content they want and allow the GPO to deliver it in the formats they desire.

In order to continue GPO's rapid progress towards a full transformation, the agency has asked for an overall increase of 5.3% for its traditional Congressional appropriations. The GPO is also seeking a one-time appropriation of \$5 million to its revolving fund to train its workforce with the skills required for managing the life-cycle of digital information products in the 21st century. GPO's total budget request for Fiscal Year 2006 is \$131.1 million.

The GPO's core mission is to ensure that the American public has access to government information. The GPO is the Federal Government's primary centralized resource for gathering, cataloging, producing, providing, authenticating, and preserving published U.S. Government information in all its forms. GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three branches of the Federal Government. In addition to publication sales, GPO makes government information available at no cost to the public through GPO Access (www.gpoaccess.gov), and through partnerships with more than 1,250 libraries nationwide participating in the Federal Depository Library Program.

For more information about the GPO, please visit www.gpo.gov.

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