



Legislative Branch Appropriations: Congress Leads By Example on Global Warming

Key Points:

- **The bill provides funding for Greening the Capitol to reduce the carbon emissions from the operations of the House buildings and the Capitol.**
- **It increases oversight of the Capitol Visitors Center, after years of delay and cost overruns, and restores staff needed for Congress to fulfill its oversight duties.**
- **The measure targets investments for critical health and safety needs – funding security upgrades and addressing health hazards and safety requirements in law.**
- **The Legislative Branch bill demonstrates a commitment to increased oversight, accountability and fiscal responsibility.**

On Friday, the House will consider H.R. 2771, funding the Legislative Branch in FY 2008.

Greening of the Capitol

Reduce Carbon Emissions: Includes \$3.9 million for new initiatives for the House including: shifting from coal to cleaner burning natural gas for heating needs, switching to 100% renewable wind power for electrical needs, for an ethanol gas station for House automobiles, and for energy efficient compact florescent light bulbs.

Strengthen Accountability and Oversight

Capitol Visitors Center: \$27.5 million, \$16.3 million below 2007 for ongoing construction and operations. It also creates a much needed Inspector General to oversee the Architect of the Capitol to improve financial and management practices, including those associated with the Capitol Visitors Center.

Government Accountability Office: \$503 million, \$22.5 million above 2007 and \$20 million below the request to help rebuild the agency's personnel and allow GAO to better support Congressional oversight.

House of Representatives: Cuts \$3.8 million from four House administrative accounts.

Improve Congressional Safety and Health

Office of Compliance: Includes \$3.8 million, \$700,000 above 2007 and \$300,000 below the request, allowing them to conduct oversight of efforts to improve utility tunnel health and safety issues and to carry out the initial health and safety inspection of the Capitol Visitors Center. It requires agencies to reimburse the Treasury for awards or settlements paid for failure to comply with health and safety standards.

Capitol Police: Provides \$286 million, \$30.4 million above 2007 and \$13 million below the request, for 10 new Library Police Officers, new employees to improve financial and administrative management, and \$5 million for a new radio system.