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## **WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES INTENT TO NOMINATE STEPHEN T. AYERS AS ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL**

WASHINGTON – President Obama today announced his intent to nominate Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP, as Architect of the Capitol. Mr. Ayers has served as Acting Architect, heading up the 2,600-person Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), since February 2007.

“This is a tremendous honor. It has been a privilege to lead the AOC organization and work with such a professional workforce dedicated to serving the Congress and the American people by maintaining and preserving the U.S. Capitol complex,” said Ayers. “I appreciate the trust the Congress and the Leadership has placed in me, and I thank President Obama for nominating me. I am extremely proud to be a part of the AOC team, and look forward to the work and the challenges ahead.”

Under Mr. Ayers’ leadership, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol provided vital support for the 56<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inaugural ceremony in January 2009, construction was completed on the 415,000 square foot National Audio Visual Conservation Center and Library of Congress Book Storage Modules 3 and 4 at Fort Meade; adding another 76,400 square feet to the AOC’s facilities inventory, and construction on the Capitol Visitor Center was completed and its doors were opened to the public on December 2, 2008.

He has implemented innovative tools and programs to make the AOC more effective in its ability to serve Congress and the American people, including strengthening its Strategic Plan. At a time when fiscal restraint is necessary, Mr. Ayers has worked with Congress to prioritize the deferred maintenance and capital renewal work needed to protect and preserve the Capitol and other historic buildings, and to ensure that the proper re-investment is made in our nation’s heritage assets.

In addition, Mr. Ayers signed into effect a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 626, and he has worked to secure a number of workforce flexibilities that are of great benefit to AOC employees, including implementing a Flexible and Compressed Work Schedules program Agency-wide. He also implemented a comprehensive workplace safety program which has consistently reduced injuries.

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Under Mr. Ayers' leadership, the work of AOC staff has been recognized with the receipt of numerous industry awards, including several awards from the Washington Building Congress, Associated Builders and Contractors, and the Construction Management Association of America.

Over the past three years the AOC has, through a variety of initiatives, reduced carbon emissions, improved energy efficiency, and implemented sustainable design practices throughout the Capitol complex. Due to these efforts, Congress reduced its energy consumption by 10.7 percent in FY 2008 over the FY 2003 baseline. Mr. Ayers is committed to supporting small businesses in order to help facilitate competition and to support local communities, and has implemented several programs to actively award contracts to companies that reflect the diversity of our country above and beyond the standard requirements of Federal regulations.

"I am extremely grateful to the Congress, to the Senate and House Leadership, and to the entire AOC team for their support and encouragement over the past three years while I served as Acting Architect," said Mr. Ayers. "I look forward to leading the organization as we continue to build upon our successes over the past several years."

The AOC is responsible for the facilities maintenance and operation of the historic Capitol Building, the care and improvement of more than 450 acres of Capitol grounds, and the operation and maintenance of 16.5 million square feet of buildings including: the House and Senate Congressional Office Buildings, the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress Buildings, the U.S. Supreme Court Building, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, U.S. Botanic Garden, and other facilities.

The Architect of the Capitol is appointed for a 10-year term by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Upon confirmation by the Senate, the person serving as Architect becomes an official of the Legislative Branch as an officer of Congress. The Architect is eligible for reappointment to another 10-year term after the completion of his first term.

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*Mr. Ayers' biography accompanies this release. For more information and/or photos, please visit <http://www.aoc.gov/aoc/press-room/index.cfm>.*



**Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP**  
**Acting Architect of the Capitol and Chief Operating Officer**

On February 4, 2007, Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP, AOC's Deputy Architect/Chief Operating Officer, in accordance with P.L. 108-7, began serving as Acting Architect of the Capitol.

Mr. Ayers is responsible for the facilities maintenance and operation of the historic Capitol Building, the care and improvement of more than 450 acres of Capitol grounds, and the operation and maintenance of 16.5 million square feet of buildings including: the House and Senate Congressional Office Buildings, the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress Buildings, the U.S. Supreme Court Building, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, and other facilities. He is responsible for the care of all works of art in the Capitol under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library and is responsible for the maintenance and restoration of murals, outdoor sculpture, and other architectural elements throughout the Capitol complex. In addition, he serves as Acting Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden and the National Garden under the Joint Committee on the Library. The Architect of the Capitol also serves as a member of the Capitol Police Board and the Capitol Guide Board as well as an ex officio member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission.

The Architect of the Capitol also is a member of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Capital Memorial Commission, Art Advisory Committee to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and the National Institute for Conservation of Cultural Property.

Under Mr. Ayers' leadership, the AOC has, through a variety of initiatives, reduced carbon emissions, improved energy efficiency, and implemented sustainable design practices throughout the Capitol complex. He is also committed to supporting small businesses in order to help facilitate competition and to support local communities, and has implemented several programs to actively award contracts to companies that reflect the diversity of our country.

Mr. Ayers completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture at the University of Maryland and received his Master's of Science degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

After attending Officers Training School at Lackland Air Base in San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Ayers was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force and assigned to Edwards Air Force Base in Edwards, California. While stationed at Edwards, he served as a Staff Architect with the 6510<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron managing numerous design and construction projects. He was promoted to Design Team Chief and progressed to the rank of Captain. Mr. Ayers was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his military service and after five years of active duty, resigned his commission to pursue a civilian career.

After working in the architectural and engineering community in the Washington, D.C., area, Mr. Ayers joined the Voice of America in Washington, D.C., as a General Engineer in 1991. In 1992 he

transferred to Rhodes, Greece, to lead construction efforts at several Voice of America sites in Greece and Germany. Mr. Ayers returned to the United States in 1997 and joined the Architect of the Capitol as an Assistant Superintendent for the Senate Office Buildings. In 1999, he was promoted to Deputy Superintendent. He was then promoted to Superintendent of the Library Buildings and Grounds in 2002.

In October 2005, Mr. Ayers was appointed as the Acting Deputy Architect/Chief Operating Officer (COO). In March 2006, Mr. Ayers was selected as the Deputy Architect/COO. In this role, he oversees approximately 2,600 employees and manages an annual budget of nearly \$600 million, and the day-to-day operations of the Agency.

Mr. Ayers is a licensed architect in California. He also is an Accredited Professional in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the National Historic Trust for Historic Preservation, and the George Washington Chapter of Lambda Alpha International. In addition, Mr. Ayers is member of the Washington Building Congress' Board of Governors. He is actively involved in his church and community. He resides in Maryland with his wife and two children.