

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
U.S. House of Representatives
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, we urge you to retain language that would prohibit funds from being used by the Architect of the Capitol for scrim containing photographs of building facades during restoration or construction projects.

We applaud the Committee's leadership and fiscal prudence last two fiscal years that saved taxpayer money and prevented the printing of photographs on scrim. The President's fiscal year 2017 budget request also recognized the importance of retaining this language by including it in Section 1102 of the Legislative Branch budget request.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

"SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for scrim containing photographs of building facades during restoration or construction projects performed by the Architect of the Capitol."

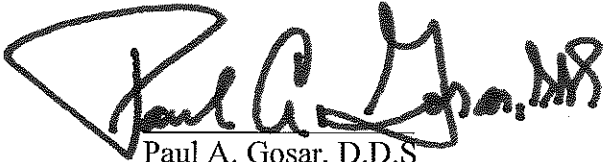
In the physical restoration of the Supreme Court, a wasteful full-size photograph was printed on a large scrim in order to conceal scaffolding during the renovation process. Hardworking taxpayers paid \$139,000 total for the scrim, with \$37,000 alone going towards the printing of the full-sized photographic image.

With a federal debt in excess of \$19 trillion, our country cannot afford to subsidize such blatant waste. We must get our fiscal house in order and prohibit these types of imprudent and unnecessary expenditures.

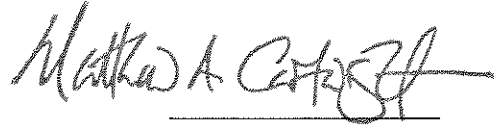
We recognize the importance that many of our monuments and historic buildings play in preserving our nation's heritage, attracting tourism and inspiring patriotism in future generations. Having said that, the appearance of scaffolding during construction doesn't have significant consequences for any of these matters.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.", with a large, stylized initial "P" and "G".

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Cartwright", with a large, stylized initial "M" and "C".

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Olson", with a large, stylized initial "P" and "O".

Pete Olson
Member of Congress