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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**

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**COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

ENERGY AND MINERALS

INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

WATER AND POWER

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
House Appropriations Committee  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole, and Ranking Members Lowey and Wasserman Schultz:

I write to request that the following language be added to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act:

*“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 recent physical restoration of the Supreme Court of the United States, 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 surpassing \$17 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.

I 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. However, scaffolding has surrounded the Washington Monument for countless months and we have not heard demands for this iconic structure to be concealed with lavish designs.

I am troubled that the Architect of the Capitol claimed to justify this waste of taxpayer money by

asserting that it is “a practice that is used extensively in Europe.” This is America and I ask that you utilize prudence and fiscal responsibility in all areas as you craft the FY 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act.

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership in your respective committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress