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GSA HEARING QUESTIONS

(1) The preamble to the 1986 GSA smoking regulations (235 Fed. Reg. 44258, Dec. 8, 1986) said that the rules were prompted by health concerns regarding non-smoking employees and visitors, but the document went on to say that--

"The proposed regulations also recognized the needs of those who smoke and permitted the designation of smoking areas. These areas were proposed to allow those who smoke to continue to do so conveniently and without affecting productivity. Hence, the policy attempted to recognize the rights, needs, and concerns of all employees."

What has changed since then? What happens to the "rights, needs, and concerns of all employees" if a total smoking ban is imposed from above?

(2) In 1987, shortly after the GSA regulations had gone into effect, representatives of the affected federal agencies attended a meeting of the Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health to discuss their experience with the regulations. At that time, the GSA representative stated that a total smoking ban was not considered practical. Again, what has changed since then?

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(3) Also in 1987, then-GSA Administrator Golden spoke of the efforts under way at GSA, in addition to the smoking regulations, to deal with indoor air quality problems. What has happened to those efforts? In particular, did GSA not commit itself to a project to monitor indoor air quality in the facilities that it manages? What happened to that project? Do you contend that a smoking ban will somehow make indoor air quality problems go away? Why are you concentrating on just one facet of the indoor air quality situation?

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