Committee on House Administration
Biography and Testimony
Gary L. Urban
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Good afternoon, my name is Gary Urban and I am a Vice President for Aerosol Monitoring & Analysis, which is located in Hanover, Maryland. Aerosol Monitoring & Analysis, Inc. has been in business for 27 years providing environmental, industrial hygiene, and health and safety consulting and training services. We are a full service company whose capabilities include consulting, laboratory and training services including but not limited to asbestos. Our staff includes Certified Industrial Hygienists, a Certified Safety Professional, a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager as well as EPA accredited Asbestos Inspectors, Management Planners and Project Designers who provide multifunctional environmental consulting services, design support and hazardous materials management to our clients. Our firm provides services to government, industry, building owners & managers, architects, engineers and contractors. I have been employed by the firm for the past 17 years, during which time I have provided consulting services to such government agencies as the General Services Administration, Architect of the Capitol, Smithsonian and DOD.

Professionally, I am a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager with 21 years of experience in hazardous materials investigations, primarily involving asbestos surveys, asbestos abatement design, asbestos abatement remediation oversight, asbestos management and asbestos operations and maintenance programs. I am trained and licensed as an EPA AHERA Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner, EPA AHERA Asbestos Abatement Supervisor/Competent Person, and EPA AHERA Asbestos Project Designer.

During the past several years our firm has provided a variety of consulting, laboratory and training services to the Smithsonian Institution at several facilities. These past projects have included work at the Smithsonian Castle Building, the Arts & Industries Building, as well as the Garber Facility, and the Museum Support Center, both in Suitland Maryland. These projects involved inspection, testing, design for abatement, hazard assessments including but not limited to asbestos

Recently, our firm was awarded a contract in August of 2008 to reassess Smithsonian Facilities to provide an update to existing asbestos survey reports in the majority of the Smithsonian buildings, facilities and museums. The work involves a review of available asbestos documentation for each specific site, field inspections to verify site conditions pertaining to the presence, quantity, location and condition of the previously identified asbestos materials. The work also includes assessing, documenting and in some cases testing, additional suspect materials not previously identified, so as to provide and more complete picture of the asbestos situation within a given facility. At the completion of the inspection, we provide a summary report of findings, results of any testing conducted, an electronic copy of the available documentation and input the field inspection data into a SI generated geospatial data base that interfaces with SI Facility Center, version 8i. This database will enable SI to better manage the presence, quantity and location of asbestos within a given facility. I am the project manager for this contract and serve as

the single point of contact to the Smithsonian Institution. This assignment is providing me with unique and extensive knowledge of the challenges posed to the Smithsonian by the types, locations and extent of asbestos materials in the Institution as well as insights into how these materials can best be managed to ensure the safety of staff, contractors and visitors.

In the most recent past, our firm has provided asbestos general area air monitoring for SI at the National Air and Space Museum on the Mall in response to claims that the air was unsafe as asbestos was identified in bulk and settled dust samples collected by others. At the time of our testing, we provided evidence that the airborne fiber concentrations observed throughout the museum, in both public and non-public spaces identified fiber concentrations of less than or equal to ($\leq$) 0.005 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc) of air by phase contrast microscopy (PCM). For comparison purposes, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has established a permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 0.1 f/cc as an 8-hour time weighted average for asbestos fibers. Furthermore, the re-occupancy levels for asbestos removal projects within SI, where PCM is utilized is <0.01 f/cc.

Thank you for inviting me to be here today. I will be pleased to address any questions the committee might have on this information or other issues relating to survey, analysis, handling or management of asbestos containing materials in facilities like the Smithsonian.