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Mr. Chairman, I appreciated the gentleman from Illinois' (Mr. LaHood) earlier comments about the fitness center for our employees. When I first came here soon after the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LaHood), I was struck that the showers that were available for our employees were kind of secret. We, I think, cracked the code, found out where they were, and published a map. And we were able to work with the gentleman from New York (Mr. Walsh), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Kingston), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Moran), the former subcommittee chairs and ranking members in slowly moving some things forward. There are now some new showers. Now the fitness center is under construction.

I congratulate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LaHood) and the committee. I think this is an important development for our employees. It is important for their health, for their morale, for their efficiency, for their being able to bike and walk and run to work, I think it is an important signal for them that we value their work.

I also appreciated comments that he made about the gem, which is the Library of Congress. I must confess I have some concerns in looking at this budget. We basically flatlined the Library of Congress, and we have missing from this, and part of the reduction is, the money that has been set aside for facilities to deal with the massive amount of information that is compiled by the library. The Library of Congress is the largest repository of information in the world. We have an obligation in Congress to support their efforts, and it is time sensitive. Not only are they running out of space, running out of room, there are issues of being able to protect the materials that they have. And I am afraid that if we slip a year, then we slip another year, we end up putting a burden on the people who run the Library of Congress and we put part of that collection in jeopardy.

Look at what happened to the Library of Congress Jefferson Building being neglected for decades and it took a major renovation for the library, that gem that we are all so proud of, to be fit for use in time for its centennial.

I know the committee has a difficult time because there are tight spending restraints, but I would urge the Committee on Appropriations and, indeed, each Member of this body to take a careful look at our stewardship responsibilities for the Library of Congress.

We all direct our constituents there because we are proud of it. We all take advantage of the material. This is an important little detail that is going to make their job harder; and I am afraid in the long run, if we are not careful, it is going to be the abrogation of our responsibility to maintain this largest collection of information in the history of the world.