



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **KEY MILESTONE REACHED FOR CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER**

WASHINGTON -- Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, Acting Architect of the Capitol, announced that the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the Capitol Visitor Center has been issued today.

“Receipt of the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy marks a key milestone in the construction of the Capitol Visitor Center. Over the course of the next few months, the Visitor Center will begin to take its final shape with the installation of office furnishings, information technology, exhibits, information kiosks, artwork, and many other visitor amenities. I want to congratulate the Project Team and the entire AOC organization for achieving this key milestone ahead of schedule. We will now focus our energies on readying the facility for its December 2, 2008, public opening,” said Ayers.

The Temporary Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the Agency’s Fire Marshal upon the completion of a series of successful tests of the Visitor Center’s fire detection and life-safety systems. Visitor safety is a top priority for Congress and the Architect of the Capitol, and the Visitor Center was designed with state-of-the-art life-safety systems. The Temporary Certificate of Occupancy allows workers and staff to occupy and begin fitting the facility with the interior furnishings and equipment needed to support the staff and thousands of visitors that will flow through the doors every day.

Congressional leaders recently selected December 2, 2008, as the public opening date for the Visitor Center, which is also the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date on which the Statue of Freedom was placed atop the Capitol Dome. Details about opening activities, information on booking tours, and additional details about the amenities in the Visitor Center will be forthcoming over the next several months.

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