CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks E2501

December 5, 2007

The need for this legislation is clear. Counterfeiting and piracy costs the global economy between $500 and $600 billion a year in lost sales. That’s around 5 to 7 percent of global trade. It costs the United States between $200 and $250 billion a year in lost sales, including 7,500,000 jobs.

And it’s not just about money. Counterfeiting and piracy can place human lives at risk. As counterfeiting proliferates in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, aircraft, and auto parts, the harm can be a matter of life and death. For example, the World Health Organization estimates that the prevalence of counterfeit pharmaceuticals ranges from less than 1 percent in developed countries to over 30 percent in developing countries, and over 50 percent of counterfeit pharmaceuticals are obtained from illicit websites. At the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest, estimates that counterfeit drug commerce will grow 13 percent annually through 2010, nearly twice the rate of legitimate pharmaceuticals. As we read stories about people being harmed by counterfeit toothpaste, toys, or drugs, we see the real effects of these practices on American lives.

This legislation attempts to address these intellectual property offenses in a broad and encompassing manner. It does not take only one approach toward bolstering our intellectual property laws but rather tackles the challenges in several different ways. First, Titles I and II strengthen the substantive and criminal laws relating to copyright and trademark infringement. For example, the legislation address several issues related to registration of a copyright and the manner in which damages are calculated for certain claims of infringement, as well as tackling some of the problems that occur at our Nation’s borders and harmonizing the various forfeiture laws for the different intellectual property offenses.

Second, Title III of the legislation establishes the Office of the United States Intellectual Property Enforcement Representative, USIPER, in the Executive Office of the President, to handle nationwide and international coordination of intellectual property enforcement efforts. This legislation provides that the USIPER establish an Interagency Intellectual Property Advisory Committee, composed of every federal agency with expertise in either Intellectual Property protection or enforcement, will generate a joint strategic plan to marshal the disparate resources and expertise of United States enforcement efforts and coordinate and consolidate these efforts.

Third, Title IV provides for the appointment of intellectual property attachés to work with foreign countries in their efforts to combat counterfeiting and piracy. The attachés will be responsible for coordinating training and technical assistance programs within the host country.

Finally, Title V of the legislation raises the level of intellectual property enforcement coordination within the Department of Justice by placing the functions of the existing Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section related to enforcement of intellectual property laws and trade secrets under the auspices of a new Intellectual Property Division, and also transfers the International Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinators to this new Division. This step will also be supported by additional law enforcement resources, including local law enforcement grants and additional CHIPS and dedicated FBI personnel, and requires DOJ to provide an annual report of its efforts in intellectual property enforcement. Finally, the bill promotes transparency in the prosecutorial process by directing the DOJ to review and consider modifying their standards for accepting or declining prosecution of the intellectual property laws, including procedures for advising complainants and victims of intellectual property crimes.

If the United States is to maintain its position in the increasingly competitive global economy, we must fulfill our obligation to American intellectual property rights holders and to the global economic community. Innovations, creations, writings, and discoveries are not stolen without effective recourse. This comprehensive piece of legislation goes a long way toward protecting that creativity and ingenuity that is vital to the U.S. economy.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTY MARKOWITZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the continued injustice facing a Cuban prisoner, Pablo Pacheco Avila. In March of 2003, Cuban authorities led a crackdown on dissident movements. One of their victims was independent political journalist, Pablo Pacheco. Under Law 88, persons found guilty of destabilizing the Cuban regime by supporting the policy of the United States can be sentenced to many years in prison. Pablo Pacheco was sentenced to 20 years in prison under Cuban Law 88. By simply expressing political opinions and exercising the right to free speech, Pablo Pacheco and over 70 other people were arrested.

Pablo Pacheco began his prison sentence in Prison de Aguinie in Colon, but has since been transferred several times. During this time, the prisoner’s health has been declining, as Pablo suffers from renal ectopia of his right kidney. In a country renowned for its medical care, it appears difficult for Pablo to receive the attention he needs. He continues to suffer from severe pain. His medical conditions have been exacerbated by the harassment he has experienced in the Cuban penal system.

While in prison, Pablo Pacheco has continued his fight to expose the failings of the Cuban regime, resulting in further punishments. I urge the Cuban regime to end this unethical imprisonment of Pablo Pacheco Avila. His status as a prisoner of conscience and his deplorable health urgently call for his immediate release.

RECOGNIZING 200 YEARS OF RESEARCH, SERVICE, AND STEWARDSHIP BY NOAA AND ITS PREDECESSOR AGENCIES

SPEECH OF HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 147) recognizing 200 years of research, service, to the