

the Colorado River makes up a significant part of the drinking water supply for Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson, and is used additionally to irrigate hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural lands. Moreover, the tailings pond, which has been designated as critical habitat for four endangered species, is situated between Canyonlands and Arches National Parks.

Leaving a huge, leaking tailings pile adjacent to the Colorado River does not make sense. In the event of flood, the Colorado River could easily be contaminated. Lacking regulatory and financial alternatives, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is ready to approve the Atlas Corporation's inadequate plan to reclaim the site by simply placing a dirt cap over the top of the pile rather than by requiring removal to a safer location. This plan will not stop contamination of the Colorado River, which is expected to continue for hundreds of years.

Moving the tailings will remove the source of the contamination. By placing the tailings in a more modern and technologically safe situation, the threats from earthquakes, high water, flooding will be eliminated. In every similar case under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy, uranium tailings have been moved away from riverbeds to lined and protected areas. Sadly, the NRC has seems determined to perpetuate rather than resolve this dangerous situation in the case of the Atlas site.

The National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and many state and local government agencies have all expressed concerns about the quality of scientific data and information upon which NRC decisions have been based.

Today, Representatives FILNER, PELOSI, GUTIERREZ, and I are introducing legislation to require the Department of Energy to move the tailings to a safe location. Once this has been accomplished, the Attorney General would be charged with ascertaining the extent of the Atlas Corporation liability, and its parent companies, to secure reimbursement as appropriate.

A WORD OF PRAISE AND THANKS  
TO CAROLE KING, DAVID BALL,  
AND MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER

**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, during Christmas week I went with Senator DANIEL K. INOUE and Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen to the Middle East to congratulate our troops on the great work they've done in the region and to let them know America was remembering their efforts during the Holidays when so many had to be away from their families.

We found wonderful morale among the troops and a strong commitment to continuing to meet U.S. goals in the region.

I also want to praise three entertainers who gave up part of their Holidays to join us. As we visited in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and abroad the U.S.S. *Enterprise*, the troops were

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

entertained by Mary Chapin Carpenter, Carole King, and David Ball. The troops thoroughly enjoyed meeting the entertainers and listening to their music. Several soldiers commented on how much the show brightened their holidays noting it was the highlight of the last 4½ months.

These three patriotic Americans gave up part of their Christmas Week to deliver a message of support and concern to our troops. They clearly showed their support for our Nation, our troops, and our spirit of uniting as Americans.

We left on a Sunday, returned on Christmas Eve, and were greeted by an ice storm that made travel difficult. Carole King traveled from Washington back to Idaho by air, then drove three hours to her home; David Ball missed his flight home, drove to Baltimore, and finally got to Nashville the next morning; Mary Chapin Carpenter lives in the Washington area, but it's the second straight Christmas she's visited troops, last year in Italy, Macedonia, and Bosnia.

It's a pleasure for me to recognize the commitment and caring of these three fine Americans, and to restate the thanks of our troops and our Nation for their patriotism.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINA KIEHL

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join many Americans across the country who would want to honor Kristina Kiehl, a founder and co-chair of Voters for Choice. Later this week, we will celebrate the 26th anniversary of the historic Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*. Kristina Kiehl, a Californian, will celebrate her 50th birthday on Saturday, January 23. Kristina has spent most of those 50 years working to ensure reproductive choice, equality and human rights for all Americans, regardless of race, sex, ethnic background, sexual orientation or, other characteristics irrelevant to merit.

As a founder of Voters for Choice, a national bi-partisan organization dedicated to protecting and expanding reproductive choice for women, Kristina has been a pioneer in protecting the reproductive rights and health of women. With her leadership, Voters for Choice has helped to develop leaders across our country on choice issues; to educate Americans about reproductive issues; and to train advocates for this important work. For 18 years, Voters for Choice has been a superbly effective organization that has led the fight for many women's health issues, in no small part because of Kristina's commitment, dedication, energy and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased and very proud to honor and recognize the accomplishments of Kristina Kiehl, a national leader who has dedicated her life to improving the health and protecting the reproductive rights of Americans. I urge my colleagues in this House to join me in saluting Kristina Kiehl.

*January 20, 1999*

COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION  
ANTIPIRACY ACT

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act," a bill to encourage continued investment in the production and distribution of valuable new collections of information.

Electronic collections, and other collections of factual material, are absolutely indispensable to the American economy on the verge of the new century. These information products put a wealth of data at the fingertips of business people, professionals, scientists, scholars, and consumers, and enable them to retrieve from this haystack of information the specific factual needle that they need to solve a particular economic, research, or educational problem. Whether they focus on financial, scientific, legal, medical, bibliographic, news, or other information, collections of information are essential tools for improving productivity, advancing education and training, and creating a more informed citizenry. They are also the linchpins of a dynamic commercial information industry in the United States.

Developing, compiling, distributing, and maintaining commercially significant collections requires substantial investments of time, personnel, and money. Information companies must dedicate massive resources when gathering and verifying factual material, presenting it in a user-friendly way, and keeping it current for and useful to customers. U.S. firms have been the world leaders in this field. They have brought to market a wide range of valuable collections of information that meet the information needs of businesses, professionals, researchers, and consumers worldwide. But several recent legal and technological developments threaten to cast a pall over this progress, by eroding the incentives for the continued investment needed to maintain and build upon the U.S. lead in world markets for electronic information resources.

Producers are also concerned that several recent cases may also cast doubt on the ability of a proprietor to use contractual provisions to protect itself against unfair competition from such "free riders." In cyberspace, technological developments represent a threat as well as an opportunity for collections of information, just as for other kinds of works. Copying factual material from another's proprietary collection, and rearranging it to form a competing information production—just the kind of behaviors that copyright protection may not effectively prevent—is cheaper and easier than ever through digital technology that is now in widespread use. More and more we are seeing actual instances where American companies fall victim to such piracy, or where they refrain from placing complete collections into the public discourse, for fear of piracy.

When all these factors are added together, the bottom line is clear: it is time to consider new federal legislation to protect developers who place their materials in interstate commerce against piracy and unfair competition, and thus encourage continued investment in