

the production and distribution of valuable commercial collections of information.

While copyright, on the federal level, and state contract law underlying licensing agreements remain essential tools for protecting the enormous investment in collections of information, there are gaps in the protection that can best be filled by a new federal statute which will complement copyright law. The "Collections of Information Antipiracy Act" would prohibit the misappropriation of valuable commercial collections of information by unscrupulous competitors who grab data collected by others, repackage it, and market a product that threatens competitive injury to the original collection. This new federal protection is modeled in part on the Lanham Act, which already makes similar kinds of unfair competition a civil wrong under federal law. Importantly, this bill maintains existing protections for collections of information afforded by copyright and contract rights. It is intended to supplement these legal rights, not replace them.

Throughout the last session of Congress, we worked countless hours trying to fashion a bill that would be acceptable to all interested parties. Some would like to see stronger protections, while others advocate no legislation at all. I promise once again to listen to every constructive suggestion, and use every effort to craft a solution which bridges the producer and user communities. But I am committed to seeing this valuable legislation become law.

While this bill is almost identical to the legislation which passed the House of Representatives last Congress, I have made changes to clarify and embody fair use, and to address the issue of perpetual protection. These two changes address key concerns voiced by the nonprofit scientific, educational, and research communities during our consideration last term.

During the last Congress, we were able to pass the legislation through the House of Representatives not once, but twice. I look forward to working with Senator ORRIN HATCH and Senator PATRICK LEAHY, who have indicated this necessary legislation will be a priority for them this legislative session. I also welcome the input of Representative HOWARD BERMAN, the new Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, as this legislation moves forward.

The Collections of Information Antipiracy Act is a balanced proposal. It is aimed at actual or threatened competitive injury from misappropriation of collections of information or their contents, not at uses which do not affect marketability or competitiveness. The goal is to stimulate the creation of even more collections, and to encourage even more competition among them. The bill avoids conferring any monopoly on facts, or taking any other steps that might be inconsistent with these goals.

This legislation provides the basis for legislative activity on an important and complex subject. I look forward to hearing the suggestions and reactions of interested parties, and of my colleagues.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE RETURN OF THE "LINCOLN BANNER" TO NORWICH, CONNECTICUT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a momentous event in the history of Norwich, Connecticut. On January 22, 1999, the fully-restored "Lincoln Banner" will be unveiled. The story surrounding the discovery and restoration of this 138 year old artifact is a testament to the spirit of volunteerism and pride in our history which have long distinguished Americans.

The "Lincoln Banner" is so named because it depicts Abraham Lincoln, without his beard, at approximately age 51 on a 6 by 8 foot silk banner. A portrait of Lincoln graces the center of the banner and is surrounded by the following inscription—"In hoc signo Vincemus. Ubi Libertas, Ibi Patria"—which roughly translates to "In this sign we are victorious. One for liberty under the fatherland." "Norwich" is inscribed in capital letters across the bottom.

The origins and exact use of the banner are known conclusively only to history herself. However, most in Norwich believe it was produced for Lincoln's presidential campaign and displayed during his visit to the community on March 9, 1860. Mr. Lincoln did not come to Norwich seeking support for his election. Instead, he came to help a fellow Republican—Governor William Buckingham—who was seeking reelection. Local historians believe the banner hung outside the Wauregan Hotel where Lincoln stayed.

Following Mr. Lincoln's visit, the banner essentially vanished for more than 135 years. Then, in 1997, officials in Norwich received a telephone call from an auction house in my state indicating that it had recently been contacted by an individual who wished to sell the banner. A spontaneous, grassroots effort, initiated by John Marasco, a city employee, who went on local radio station WICH with personality Johnny London to urge listeners to contribute, raised nearly \$41,000 from residents, businesses and others in the community. As a result of this tremendous amount of support, the City was able to purchase the banner and bring it back to its rightful home.

After nearly 140 years, the banner was in poor condition. It was torn and tattered and in need of restoration. With more assistance from the community and significant support from the City of Norwich, a group formed to preserve the banner—the Norwich-Lincoln Homecoming Committee—was able to send it to be expertly restored by the Textile Conservation Center at the American Textile Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts. On January 22, the banner will be returned permanently to Norwich. It will become the centerpiece of an exhibit at the Slater Museum entitled "Norwich, Lincoln and the Civil War." After the exhibit closes, the banner will be displayed in City Hall for all to see.

Mr. Speaker, the return of the "Lincoln Banner" to Norwich brings the community full circle and closes an important loop in its history. The effort to purchase and preserve the ban-

ner demonstrates that pride in the community and our heritage is alive and well in America today. I believe President Lincoln would be proud of, and probably more than a little humbled by, the community's efforts to preserve an important part of the past. I know I speak for the entire community when I say "Welcome Back, Mr. President."

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Plant Genetic Conservation Appropriations Act of 2000 that provides \$1.5 million for a genetic plant conservation project that collects and preserves genetic material from our Nation's endangered plants.

While the Fish and Wildlife Service continues to make strides in battling the war against further extinction of endangered species, we must do more. As of 1997 when I originally introduced this legislation, there were 513 plants listed as Endangered and 101 as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Today, there are 567 plants listed as endangered and 135 as threatened. The need to supplement the Fish and Wildlife Services work is critical.

I believe a crucial part of the solution to save our endangered species is the genetic plant conservation project, which can help save and catalog genetic material for later propagation. As genetic technology develops, we will have saved the essential materials necessary to restore plant populations.

The Plant Genetic Conservation Appropriations Act of 2000 requests \$1.5 million for activities such as rare plant monitoring and sampling, seed bank upgrade and curation, propagation of endangered plant collections, expanded greenhouse capacity, nursery construction, cryogenic storage research, and in-vitro storage expansion.

In my home state of Hawaii, the endangered plant population sadly comprises 46 percent of the total U.S. plants listed as endangered. And our endangered plant list continues to grow. We cannot afford to wait any longer. By allocating the resources and allowing scientists to collect the genetic samples now, we can ensure our endangered plants will survive.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Plant Genetic Conservation Appropriations Act 2000. This necessary bill can lead us to preserving plants that many of our ecosystems cannot afford to lose.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW HAVEN LIONS CLUB

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a very special organization. I ask my