

Natural Heritage" (World Heritage Convention) for over thirty years. This convention, administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), currently protects 20 World Heritage Sites in the U.S. Moreover, the "Tentative List" of U.S. World Heritage Sites (www.cr.nps.gov/worldheritage) presently contains 70 properties including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In order for a site to be nominated as a potential World Heritage Site, it must first be on a nation's "Tentative List."

The House Committee on Resources has jurisdiction over U.S. participation in the World Heritage Convention. Because of my concern for protecting private property rights and American sovereignty, I monitor the activities of the World Heritage Committee as do some U.S. organizations advocating these same principles.

Sovereignty International, based in Hollow Rock, TN and chaired by Henry Lamb, contacted me earlier this year requesting my assistance in its efforts to video tape the proceeding of World Heritage Committee's meeting held earlier this month in Durban, South Africa. Despite my efforts to advance this very modest proposal, Sovereignty International's request was denied in writing by the Secretary of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee based in Paris, France.

Because I believe strongly that governments and international organizations should make all reasonable efforts to be transparent, I have asked UNESCO for a detailed written explanation of why it denied Sovereignty International's request which is very modest by American standards. I urge my colleagues to read this letter and be forever vigilant in requiring the United Nations and other international organizations to be much more transparent in their daily operations.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2005.

Hon. FRANCESCO BANDARIN,
Secretary, UNESCO World Heritage Committee,
Paris, France.

DEAR DIRECTOR BANDARIN: As you may know, the House Committee on Resources has jurisdiction over the United States' participation in the World Heritage Convention. Earlier this year, I was contacted by Mr. Henry Lamb of Sovereignty International requesting the Committee's assistance in his efforts to tape proceedings of the World Heritage Committee's July meeting in Durban, South Africa.

Since Sovereignty International has solid credentials as an NGO and has taped official proceedings of the House Committee on Resources and many federal agencies, I can only consider this modest request as reasonable. As UNESCO frequently advocates increasing its "transparency" and this request is not only consistent with but also furthers transparency, it seems only logical that UNESCO would encourage taping of the proceedings.

Thus, I was surprised to read your June 22, 2005 letter to Mr. Lamb which stated, "the World Heritage Committee is a public meeting, except when otherwise decided by the Committee. The World Heritage Committee has not approved requests to film the proceedings in the past."

To better understand your decision regarding the request to video tape the Durban proceedings, I respectfully request the following:

1. A copy of the World Heritage Committee's official policy on taping that served as

guidance for this decision to deny Mr. Lamb's request.

2. A list of Committee Members (and UNESCO and Centre staff) that addressed Mr. Lamb's request and an explanation of how they interpreted this official policy to reach their decision. Minutes of any relevant meetings would be most helpful.

3. A list of other organizations that have requested to "film the (Committee's) proceedings in the past," copies of any correspondence regarding these requests and an explanation as to how each of these requested were handled.

Finally, I would like to meet with you on this and other matters when you next visit Washington, DC. It would allow us both to better understand each other's concerns.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and a timely reply on this matter.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

UPON RETIREMENT OF LINDA
DI MAURO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to thank Linda DiMauro for her outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 26 years.

Throughout the years, Linda has made significant contributions inputting financial data for the U.S. House of Representatives and processing and overseeing the staff payroll of the House. She began her career with the House on October 1, 1979 and has served this great institution in accounting and payroll positions within the offices of both the Clerk of the House and the Chief Administrative Officer. She has held the positions of Data Processing Clerk in the Office of Finance, Accounting Department, Payroll Counselor, and currently serves as a Senior Payroll Counselor in the Office of Human Resources. During the past 26 years, Linda has provided payroll guidance to every entity of the House, assuring that all House staff is paid accurately and on time each month. Her payroll and financial acumen has enabled House entities to make critical decisions related to staff payroll issues. She has also provided many years of payroll support and guidance to the countless House staff members who have worked in this great institution throughout the years.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Linda DiMauro for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House staff payroll function. I wish Linda, her daughter Denise, and her grandson Dominick, many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN
DASO AND THE GIFTED ARTIST
OF AMERICA CENTER, INC.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize the valuable

work of Mr. John Daso, a talented artist who resides in Lexington, South Carolina.

As one of the most beautiful states in the nation, South Carolina's landscape is certainly not easy to accurately illustrate for most artists. However, Mr. Daso's work demonstrates his unique ability to reflect the beauty of our state. I am proud that we have such a remarkable artist living in the Second District of South Carolina.

As the founder of the Gifted Artist of America Center, Inc., Mr. Daso is also generously serving our community. This valuable center helps educate, mentor and inspire young artists who are or were unable to afford a formal education. Specifically, the center offers business development, marketing skills, financial awareness, associative skill training and graphic design. By supporting our youth and encouraging public interest in the Arts, the Gifted Artist of America Center is inspiring individuals to make a difference in their communities by using their artistic skills.

I am grateful for Mr. Daso's artistic talent and leadership in our community.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL
AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMEN-
TATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose CAFTA, because I believe it is a bad deal for rural and agricultural communities like those in my 18th district of California.

There is no indication that U.S. agriculture will benefit from a poorly negotiated deal that—without adequate safeguards—opens trade with a region that has little capacity to purchase our goods.

This administration's lax enforcement of trade agreements makes CAFTA's prospects even bleaker.

Currently, our agricultural trade deficit with the six countries covered by CAFTA totals 765 million dollars.

If we assume that the projections for CAFTA are as far off the mark as the projected gains turned out to be for NAFTA, this deficit is likely to grow even higher.

By passing this deeply flawed agreement, we would do two things: Reward these Central American countries for their poor records on labor rights—and add to our ballooning agricultural trade deficit with that region.

Like my Democratic colleagues, I believe in fair trade, not flawed trade.

I believe in trade deals that protect American farmers and ranchers and raise living standards in our partner countries. CAFTA fails to meet these basic standards, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.