

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Representative Lee Terry (NE-02) today successfully offered an amendment to H.R. 5522, the FY 2007 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, to ensure no foreign assistance dollars will be used to support the importation or use of goods and services that are counterfeited. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently providing taxpayer dollars to finance counterfeiters of the trademarks of products and services.

"This amendment is needed in order to close a loophole in current law that is not being enforced," Terry said. "taxpayers should not be financing the activities of counterfeiters of goods and services. American intellectual property is being used illegally and businesses across are hurt as a result.

For example, right now, in 11 countries, USAID is providing taxpayer funds to entities that are not the rightful holder of the Gallup trademark. This amendment will benefit many companies that provide services and products abroad, including those in Nebraska."

This amendment has a similar effect to bipartisan legislation Terry introduced in April 2006. H.R. 5249, the "Stop Aid to Counterfeiters Act" has 29 cosponsors, including Representatives Tom Osborne (NE-03) and Jeff Fortenberry (NE-01).

An example of the illegal activity involves the Gallup Organization located in Terry's Congressional District of Omaha, NE. Gallup holds more than 1,000 trademarks around the globe in more than 100 countries. However, organizations in foreign countries are conducting market research and electoral polling using the Gallup name without permission or license, all the while receiving American taxpayer support

from the USAID. This unauthorized use of the Gallup name could injure the excellent reputation and good will of the Gallup Organization if used in an improper manner.

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