

# Committee on Resources

## Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands

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### Witness Statement

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**Testimony**  
*of*  
**Congressman John Shimkus**  
*before the*  
**Resources Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands**  
*on*  
**March 14, 2000**

Good Morning Chairman Hansen and members of the Subcommittee. It is a pleasure to be here this morning to speak to you about the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. This is a project I have been working on with my colleagues from Illinois for the last two years and I am delighted that the committee is considering this legislation today.

As you may know, the entire Illinois delegation is supportive of HR 3084. In the House my legislation has all 19 members of the Illinois delegation as cosponsors. The companion legislation in the Senate has the solid support of both of our Senators, Mr. Durbin and Mr. Fitzgerald.

Back home in Springfield, this legislation has the full support of both, the City of Springfield, in which this project will be located, and that of the Governor of Illinois, George Ryan.

In fact, the State of Illinois has already appropriated \$10 million, and in the very near future will appropriate an additional \$40 million for this project this year. In addition, the City of Springfield has committed \$10 million to this project through local tax incentives.

Mr. Chairman, through this legislation we are asking the Congress to commit resources to this nationally significant project in a responsible manner. HR 3084 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to contribute to the establishment of the Library in Springfield, Illinois.

The bill requires the grantee to submit to the Department of the Interior within 18 months after the date of enactment a plan and design for the interpretive center which will describe the facility and site, estimated cost of acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance of the project. The bill allows for the Secretary of Interior to provide input and advice to the project.

With an eye toward fiscal integrity, we have placed a matching requirement in this legislation which ensures that the federal government is only responsible for funding 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the projects entire cost. The remaining 2/3rds is required to come from State, local and private organizations.

We have also clearly stated in the legislation that federal funds may not be used to operate this facility. We view this project as a one time expenditure to the federal government, not a long term funding initiative that needs continual funding year after year.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the bill authorizes \$50 million for this project and makes these funds available for expenditure through 2006.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I look forward to answering any questions you and the committee may have.

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