

An update on the National Biological Diversity legislation underway in the Congress headlines the Nov/Dec 1987 issue of the *AIBS Forum*. Congressman James Scheuer's Subcommittee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Research, and Environment (of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology) has been joined by AIBS Congressional Science Fellow Dr. David Blockstein, who is working with a group of biologists, conservationists and Congressional staffers to prepare more comprehensive legislation than was the original draft.

The update observes that the Congressional committee organization, with its "pigeon-holing jurisdictional structure," works against a broad subject such as biological diversity, and the final form may be a package of individual bills.

Elements being considered include (1) a national policy statement toward conservation of biological diversity; (2) management action toward biological conservation; (3) increased coordination, direction, and emphasis on biotic inventories; and (4) support for research in basic and conservation biology.

Dr. Blockstein is soliciting "good ideas regarding the content of the legislation" from biologists, who can contact him at (202) 226-6984.