Creationism opponents load financial guns

By CHRIS MUNFORD
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The senator who authored Louisiana's creation science law has helped establish a defense fund to aid the state as it battles its way through legal attempts to topple the law. At the same time, one of the nation's top novelists and science writers is soliciting contributions for the American Civil Liberties Union to help their attorneys challenge the law.

Sen. Bill Keith, D-Mooringsport, said he wants to prevent the ACLU from interfering with Louisiana's creation law. The organization was instrumental in having a similar law in Arkansas ruled unconstitutional earlier this year.

Author Isaac Asimov has been sending form letters — on ACLU stationary — to persons he thinks will contribute to the fight against creationism laws in Louisiana and 16 other states where similar legislation is pending.

"Scientifically minded citizens must help the ACLU fight this movement to force fundamentalist religious doctrine into the public schools," Asimov said in his letter.

"If we win in Louisiana, it may discourage some of the other states from enacting their version of creationism."