

terms of killing a whole lot of nontarget species, and even target species, but it has not been effective as a predator control program.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. This amendment would have a far more devastating effect than I believe the gentleman intends it to have.

The amendment would not only prohibit predator control efforts in the western region of the United States, but because of the 50-percent funding reduction to the program, it would also negatively impact work related to protecting the health and safety of the people of this country.

The total funding for the program is \$26.8 million nationwide. Approximately 30 percent of this funding or about \$8 million, is spent on predator control to protect livestock across the country. Less than \$8 million is spent in the western region. Reducing the program by \$13.4 million will mean significant reductions to work conducted at airports to prevent wildlife-aircraft strikes; disease control work such as rabies in south Texas; brown tree snake management; and blackbird control.

This reduction would also impact the cooperative agreements for ADC activities USDA has with all 50 States. States contribute over \$22 million of State funds for ADC related work.

I do not think the gentleman from Oregon's intention is to impact the assistance provided to the Eugene Airport to reduce the threat of bird strikes to aircraft or the cooperative agreement ADC has with private timber companies to reduce black bear damage to timber resources in his own State, which is what this amendment would do if it passed.

I strongly urge all Members to vote no on this amendment. This amendment has a far more devastating impact on ADC activities across the country. It is not limited to the predator control activities in the western region alone.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I was a county commissioner when we were in tough budget times, and despite the Federal share, we eliminated the Animal Damage Control Program in a county as large as the State of Connecticut with an extensive livestock industry, and we heard that there was going to be cataclysm, all of these deaths were going to occur of the livestock.

Mr. Chairman, know what happened? Nothing. Nothing. There were no additional deaths in the livestock, the sheep, or the cattle industry, in a county the size of Connecticut, when we did away with this program with its indiscriminate killing of predators. In fact,

it reduced other pest species such as rodents and things which the coyotes primarily prey upon.

The gentleman talked about human health and safety. There is a line item in the ADC budget for human health and safety. If that line item at \$3,197,040 is inadequate, then I would certainly join with the gentleman in a unanimous-consent request to shift some of the funds into that line item. But it has its own line item. This is only the livestock line item that is affected here.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] a couple of questions. I heard his opening statement. Am I to understand that only 3 percent of the animal damage is predator and so 97 percent is nonpredator-related, and that we are, in fact, doing a government subsidy for just this 3 percent?

It seems to me we might be able to put that money to better use in doing some other research. The gentleman pointed out that it is animal disease that is generally what kills the creatures.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, yes, the Department of Agriculture's own statistics for 1995 show that 97 percent of the mortality was due to causes other than predation, the largest being respiratory problems, 27 percent; second largest, digestive; third largest, calving problems.

Perhaps if we applied more money to research in these areas there would be greater gains. But we have had this animal predator control program since 1931, and we have today more coyotes in the United States than when they started the program but they are more dispersed, and there are other problems that have been a consequence, particularly inadvertent kills of nontarget species.

Mr. Chairman, I had a constituent whose dog was killed, and when she ran to rescue the dog who had gotten into one of those M44 explosive devices, she also had a cyanide poisoning.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would continue to yield, could I ask a couple of other questions? Would the gentleman's amendment affect bird damage for small fruits or berries or that sort of thing? Would it have an effect on that?

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, no, I do not touch the \$3,463,460 for crop control.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO]. It seems to be that at a time when we are cutting back very much on agricultural support and our farmers are in deep need, that this may be one of those places where we could perhaps save and put it into other areas where our farmers are certainly being strapped financially.

Mr. Chairman, I know there are huge cuts in this agricultural bill, and maybe this would be a place we could save some money for farmers across the country; not just a small subsidy for some western farmers.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries, who also informed the House that on the following dates the President approved and signed bills of the House and Senate of the following titles:

HOUSE

March 7, 1996:

H.R. 2196. An act to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 with respect to inventions made under cooperative research and development agreements, and for other purposes.

March 12, 1996:

H.R. 927. An act to seek international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba, to plan for support of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3021. An act to guarantee the continuing full investment of Social Security and other Federal funds in obligations of the United States.

March 15, 1996:

H.J. Res. 163. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

March 16, 1996:

H.R. 2778. An act to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services for the peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

March 22, 1996:

H.J. Res. 165. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

March 26, 1996:

H.R. 2036. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to make certain adjustments in the land disposal program to provide needed flexibility, and for other purposes.

March 29, 1996:

H.J. Res. 170. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3136. An act to provide for enactment for the Senior Citizens' Right to work Act of 1996, the Line Item Veto Act, and the Small Business Growth and Fairness Act of 1996, and to provide for a permanent increase in the public debt limit.

April 1, 1996:

H.J. Res. 78. Joint resolution to grant the consent of the Congress to certain additional powers conferred upon the Bi-State Development Agency by the States of Missouri and Illinois.

H.R. 1266. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1787. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to repeal the saccharin notice requirement.

April 4, 1996:

H.R. 2854. An act to modify the operation of certain agricultural programs.

April 9, 1996:

H.J. Res. 168. Joint resolution waiving certain enrollment requirements with respect to two bills of the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

H.R. 2969. An act to eliminate the Board of Tea Experts by repealing the Tea Importation Act of 1897.

April 24, 1996:

H.J. Res. 175. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

April 25, 1996:

H.R. 3034. An act to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to extend to 2 months the authority for promulgating regulations under the act.

April 26, 1996:

H.R. 3019. An act making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

April 30, 1996:

H.R. 255. An act to designate the Federal Justice Building in Miami, Florida, as the "James Lawrence King Federal Justice Building."

H.R. 869. An act to designate the Federal Building and United States courthouse located at 125 Market Street in Youngstown, Ohio, as the "Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

H.R. 1804. An act to designate the United States Post Office-Courthouse located at South 6th and Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, as the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building."

H.R. 2415. An act to designate the United States Customs Administrative Building at the Ysleta/Zaragosa Port of Entry located at 797 South Zaragosa Road in El Paso, Texas, as the "Timothy C. McCaghren Customs Administrative Building."

H.R. 2556. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, California, and known as the Earth Sciences and Library Building, as the "Vincent E. McKelvey Federal Building."

May 6, 1996:

H.R. 3055. An act to amend section 326 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to permit continued participation in Historically Black Graduate Professional Schools in the grant program authorized by that section.

SENATE

June 5, 1996:

The President has approved the following:

March 28, 1996:

S. 1494. An act to provide an extension for fiscal year 1996 for certain programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

April 1, 1996:

S.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Vermont-New Hampshire Interstate Public Water Supply Compact.

April 9, 1996:

S. 4. An act to give the President line item veto authority with respect to appropriations, new direct spending, and limited tax benefits.

April 24, 1996:

S. 735. An act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, provide for an effective death penalty, and for other purposes.

May 2, 1996:

S.J. Res. 53. Joint resolution making corrections to Public Law 104-134.

May 20, 1996:

S. 641. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend programs

established pursuant to the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990.

May 13, 1996:

H.R. 2024. An act to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and provide for the efficient and cost-effective collection and recycling or proper disposal of used nickel cadmium batteries, small sealed lead-acid batteries, and certain other batteries, and for other purposes.

May 15, 1996:

H.R. 2243. An act to amend the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Act of 1984, to extend for 3 years the availability of Moneys for the restoration of fish and wildlife in the Trinity River, and for other purposes.

May 16, 1996:

H.R. 2064. An act to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment of the Historic Chattahoochee Compact between the States of Alabama and Georgia.

May 17, 1996:

H.R. 2137. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to require the release of relevant information to protect the public from sexually violent offenders.

May 24, 1996:

H.R. 1743. An act to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to extend the authorizations of appropriations through fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1836. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire property in the town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York, for inclusion in the Amagansett National Wildlife Refuge.

May 29, 1996:

H.R. 2066. An act to amend the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to schools to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and school breakfast programs.

June 3, 1996:

H.R. 1965. An act to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY].

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Chairman, the Animal Damage Control Program represents one of the most efficient and cost-effective programs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It benefits the general public as well as the agricultural industry. Without animal damage control, studies have indicated that agriculture's annual losses would total in excess of \$1 billion. In 1994 in Oregon alone, the National Agricultural Statistics Service estimated that 4,275 sheep and 15,200 lambs were lost to predators.

What kind of signal are we sending to these ranchers? When urban residents are robbed of their private property, they rely on publicly financed services to regain their property. Is this a subsidy to private property owners? Is the taking of private property in the East

worthy of publicly financed services, while in the West it is not?

Mr. Chairman, ranchers are hard-working, tax-paying citizens who contribute mightily to their communities. And the Animal Damage Control Program is a tool they rely on to maintain a successful operation. It should be protected.

Oppose the DeFazio amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the DeFazio amendment, and I want to state that predator control is not only a western issue; it is an issue throughout the entire country. I think that we need to retain this program because we retained other predator control programs that pertain to our police protection. This is just another form of that, and we need it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN].

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the DeFazio amendment that would cut \$13.4 million from the fiscal year 1997 budget for animal damage control.

Mr. Chairman, I ask the indulgence of my good friend, the chairman of the committee, to understand my position because I hope I understand his. I have a small spread in California. I engage in predator control. I believe in predator control. I will not describe the type of predator control that I use, but I think it is reasonably effective.

What I am suggesting here in this effort to cut the budget for animal damage control is that we can do this job more effectively and in a more principled fashion than we do. I believe in strong cooperation on the part of the Government, the Department of Agriculture in this case, to help the farmers, ranchers, and other people of this country. I have demonstrated that time after time.

On the other hand, I do not believe in an unnecessary and less than beneficial subsidy that is being used to support this program.

As I think we all know, the Department of Agriculture is authorized to levy fees to support this program, but have never used that authority. We move in that direction in almost every other area in which we are providing services to a segment of the business community, and it is my view that we should be moving in this direction as far as the Animal Damage Control Program is concerned.

In previous legislation the Congress has indicated that there are preferred ways to carry out this operation and they do not require the extensive use of the kinds of traps, snares, poisons, aerial hunting, and other things that are going on today under the name of controlling animal damage. There are more effective ways, and the Congress has directed that these be used.

We have GAO reports that the ADC has been using these methods that I