

PETER A. DeFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
RANKING MEMBER



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 13, 2018

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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EUGENE, OR 97401
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1-800-944-9603
- 125 CENTRAL AVENUE, #350
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(541) 269-2609
- 612 SE JACKSON STREET, #9
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 440-3523
- defazio.house.gov

The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor
254 State Capitol Building
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Brown:

I write to request that Oregon eliminate all M-44 lethal predator control devices in support of a petition organized by Predator Defense and sent to David Williams, State Director of Wildlife Services, and Jason Suckow, USDA Wildlife Services Western Regional Director. I ask that you use your influence to achieve this.

The Predator Defense petition has been signed by victims, survivors, physicians, veterinarians, and law enforcement officers, among others. Notably, the former manufacturer of the spring used in M-44s has endorsed the petition, and has ceased its production.

As you know, in February 2017, gray wolf OR-48 was killed by sodium cyanide ejected from an M-44 device. In March 2017, an M-44 device killed a dog in Pocatello, Idaho and nearly killed his owner, 14-year old Canyon Mansfield. The only reason Canyon's life was spared was because he was upwind from the cyanide cloud at the time of the M-44's activation. Canyon watched his dog, Kasey, die an excruciating death, and he still suffers serious health effects eighteen months later. After the near-death of Canyon, USDA Director Suckow removed all M-44s and temporarily banned their use in Idaho. In November 2017, the use of M-44 devices on public lands was temporarily banned in Colorado.

As you recall, in May 2017 you wrote to members of the Oregon legislature Ways and Means Committees voicing your concerns with the use of M-44s devices, and noted your budget recommendation defunded the use of predator control devices. Unfortunately, the legislature ignored your request. Had they concurred, they would have saved taxpayers \$934,340.

Eliminating the use of M-44 "cyanide bombs" is long overdue. The use of M-44s has led to countless cruel deaths of endangered animals and domesticated dogs, as well as injuries to humans. It is only a matter of time before someone is killed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Cc: Director David Williams, Director Jason Suckow