

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings:

We write today to request that the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform perform a thorough investigation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) Wildlife Services program. We are concerned that Wildlife Services is failing to efficiently or effectively use the resources provided to it by American taxpayers and that it is not adequately transparent or accountable to the public.

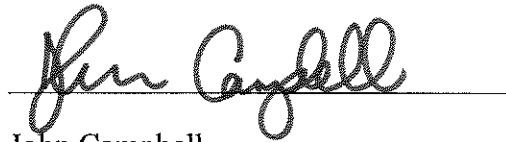
Information recently brought to light in the *Sacramento Bee*¹ by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Tom Knudson's year-long investigation documents many serious problems that reinforce our existing concerns about Wildlife Service's operations, especially its lethal predator control activities. As you can see from the enclosed copy, the series highlights a number of glaring problems, noting that: employees routinely hide non-target animals killed, encouraged by supervisors and the agency's culture; some of Wildlife Services' lethal control practices are indiscriminate; and at times lethal control is motivated by the need to keep "hunters busy during the slow winter months" rather than to protect livestock. In addition, Knudson points out that while even the military allows the media into the field, Wildlife Services does not. The

¹ *The killing agency: Wildlife Services' brutal methods leave a trail of animal death, Saturday, April 28, 2012, <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/04/28/4450678/the-killing-agency-wildlife-services.html>, Wildlife Services' deadly force opens Pandora's box of environmental problems, Monday April 20, 2012, <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/04/30/v-print/4452212/wildlife-services-deadly-force.html> and, Suggestions in changing Wildlife Services range from new practices to outright bans, Sunday, May 6, 2012, <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/05/06/v-print/4469067/suggestions-in-changing-wildlife.html>.*

Sacramento Bee's request to observe Wildlife Services' hunters and trappers in action was turned down by the director of Wildlife Services in Nevada.

We ask you to conduct a full and thorough investigation of Wildlife Services. Your Committee has stated its commitment to transparency and government responsibility. It is essential that you investigate USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services on their lack of transparency and their waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,



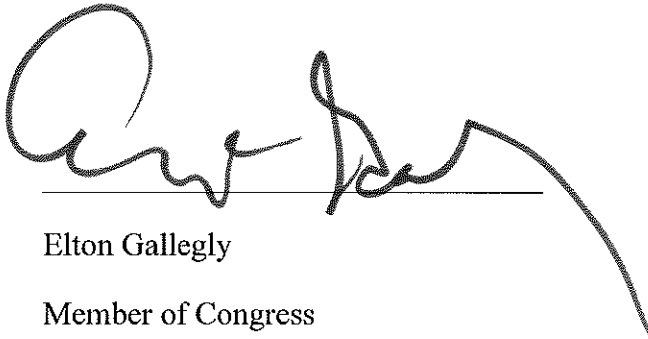
John Campbell

Member of Congress



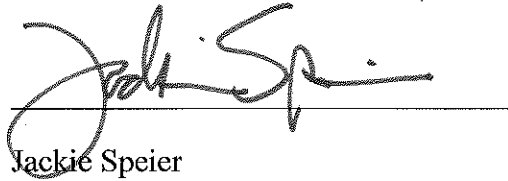
Peter DeFazio

Member of Congress



Elton Gallegly

Member of Congress



Jackie Speier

Member of Congress