

Congressman Mike Quigley

Fiscal Year 2014 programmatic requests for the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

\$26,406,304 for **Animal Welfare Act (AWA)** enforcement under the **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**

Explanation: The AWA is a vital tool in the fight against the mistreatment of animals. In May 2010, the USDA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report criticizing the agency's history of lax oversight of dog breeders – finding that inhumane treatment and horrible conditions often failed to be properly documented and yielded little to no enforcement action. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack called for more inspections and a tougher stance on repeat offenders, but the agency must have the resources to follow through on that commitment. This level of funding will help strengthen oversight of approximately 27,916 sites, including commercial breeding facilities, laboratories, zoos, circuses, and airlines, and to implement the ban on imports from foreign puppy mills.

\$15,866,009 for **APHIS Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES)**

Explanation: This division handles many important responsibilities, including the investigation of alleged violations of federal animal welfare laws and the initiation of appropriate enforcement actions. The volume of animal welfare cases is rising significantly, and an appropriation at the requested level would enable the agency to keep pace with the additional enforcement workload.

\$991,443 for animal care under **APHIS' Emergency Management Systems** line item

Explanation: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated that many people refuse to evacuate if they are forced to leave their pets behind. The Animal Care division develops infrastructure to help prepare for and respond to animal issues in a disaster and incorporate lessons learned from previous disasters. These funds are used to support state and local governments' efforts to plan for protection of people with animals, and to enable the agency to participate, in partnership with FEMA, in the National Response Plan without jeopardizing other Animal Care programs.

No less than \$308 million for the **Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)**

Explanation: The CFTC oversees speculation and profiteering in oil futures through the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act). Funding the CFTC at last year's level of \$308 million is essential to ensuring that the CFTC can implement the authorities provided under Dodd-Frank and ensure that American's are protected from speculators who might seek to drive up oil prices.

\$250 million plus an adjustment for food price inflation for **Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** commodity purchases

Explanation: Due in large part to the recession and high unemployment rates, thirty-seven million people, or one in eight Americans, are now receiving emergency food assistance. \$250 million plus an adjustment for food price inflation will ensure those in need continue to receive the food assistance they require.

\$100 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Storage and Distribution

Explanation: \$100 million for TEFAP Storage and Distribution funding is needed to help food banks and emergency feeding agencies with the rising costs of storing, transporting, and distributing foods to the needy.

\$6.5 million for the Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

Explanation: Provides each state with one full time source water specialist to assist communities develop locally-driven plans to protect the ground and surface waters that are the water source for that community. As land development pressures grow and environmental regulations increase, communities need comprehensive plans to protect local sources of safe and clean water. Additionally, by developing and implementing a source water protection plan, communities can help minimize the future need for expensive upgrades to treatment facilities.

\$678,510 for strengthened enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA)

Explanation: The HPA outlawed horse soring, the abusive practice of deliberately inflicting pain on Tennessee Walking Horses' hooves and legs to exaggerate their high-stepping gait to gain unfair competitive advantage at horse shows. This level of funding is crucial to ensure the proper enforcement of the HPA. In 2010, serious shortfalls were identified by the USDA Inspector General, and this level of funding will help to remedy those shortfalls.

\$1.202 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Explanation: NIFA participates in a nationwide system of agricultural research and education program planning and coordination between State institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It assists in maintaining cooperation among the State institutions, and between the State institutions and their Federal research partners. The agency administers grants and payments to State institutions to supplement State and local funding for agricultural research and higher education.

\$4,669,627 to continue the implementation of the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (P.L. 108-161)

Explanation: A 2009 Government Accountability Office report identified that an inadequate number of veterinarians to meet national needs is among the foremost challenges facing veterinary medicine today. To ensure adequate oversight of humane handling and food safety rules, the USDA must be able to fill vacancies in its veterinary positions. Veterinary school graduates face a crushing debt burden on \$151,672 on average, with an average starting salary of \$65,404. This level of funding is crucial to ensure we continue to have an adequate number of veterinarians in America.

\$86,779,028 for OIG to maintain staff, improve effectiveness, and allow investigations in various areas, including enforcement of animal fighting laws

Explanation: This level of funding is crucial in order to maintain OIG's ability to enforce the prohibitions on interstate and foreign commerce of animals for fighting. Forcing animals to fight is a barbaric process which sometimes includes drugging animals to heighten their aggression and forcing them to keep fighting even after they've

suffered major injuries. Fighting animals can also lead to disease outbreaks – in 2002-2003, cockfighting was linked to an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease that cost more than \$200 million to contain.

\$15 million for the **Rural Utilities Service – Circuit Rider Program**

Explanation: Circuit Riders provide the primary on-site assistance to small and rural communities to operate safe and clean drinking water supplies—and comply with water regulations. This assistance protects the sizeable investment the federal government has made in small community and rural water infrastructure. Circuit Riders are in the field everyday helping water systems with compliance, operations, maintenance, management, and training.

Maintain funding for **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Explanation: SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits.