

Congressman Mike Quigley

Fiscal Year 2015 programmatic requests for the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

\$968,887 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.

\$16,224,000 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.

\$28,019,000 million 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 10,433 sites, including commercial breeding facilities, laboratories, zoos, circuses, and airlines, and to implement the ban on imports from foreign puppy mills.

No less than \$315 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 Americans are protected from speculators who might seek to drive up oil prices.

\$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.

**\$324 million plus an adjustment for food price inflation for The 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. \$324 million plus an adjustment for food price inflation will ensure those in need continue to receive the food assistance they require.

**\$9,000,000 for the Food and Drug Administration Buildings and Facilities**

**Explanation:** The FDA oversees 100 percent of drugs, vaccines, medical devices and cosmetics, and 80 percent of our nation's food supply. The FDA also oversees products that make up nearly 25 percent of all consumer spending. Robust funding is essential to ensure that the FDA can effectively carry out its mission of keeping our food supply and the drugs we use safe.

**\$2,775,000,000 for the Food and Drug Administration Salaries and Expenses**

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**\$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.

**\$125,000,000 for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative**

**Explanation:** HFFI provides loan and grant financing to attract grocery stores and other fresh food retailers to underserved urban, suburban, and rural areas and to renovate and expand existing stores so they can provide the healthy foods that communities want and need.

**\$697,000 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.

\$1,500,000,000 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.

\$4,800,000 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 of \$162,113 on average, with an average starting salary of \$68,000. This level of funding is crucial to ensure we continue to have an adequate number of veterinarians in America.

\$97,200,000 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.

\$15,919,000 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.