

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in yielding me this time, and I of course am horrified by the picture of the slaughtered sheep that was shown here.

But let us talk for a moment about why this is offered. And I would suggest to my colleague from Texas that it is not superheated rhetoric. I would have invited him to go to Clackamas County, just outside of Portland, in my district, for a tragic incident a few months ago where the Wildlife Services agent placed a cluster of canisters of sodium cyanide on the land of a tree farmer. These so-called M-44 devices, once triggered, explode and release sodium cyanide gas several feet in the air. If sodium cyanide makes contact with the mucus membrane of an animal, touching the mouths, eyes, or nose, the animal will suffer a miserable death.

On a tree farm in Estacada, a family pet, a German Shepherd named Buddy, made the fatal mistake of stumbling across an M-44 loaded with sodium cyanide. I will not show my colleagues the picture of Buddy, his face dried with blood and foam caked on his face. But what if that canister had been dealt with by a child instead of a German Shepherd?

Currently, in my State, citizens have gathered 103,976 signatures to place on a Statewide ballot a measure to restrict the use of inhumane traps and poison. They do not want the USDA personnel setting out land mines on their private or public lands. These traps set by the Wildlife Services are just as dangerous as the poison.

Dozens of people in the State of Oregon have come forward to tell of their tragic experiences with steel-jawed traps, leghold traps, neck snares, and Conibear traps.

A chief copetitioner of the Oregon ballot measure is Jennifer Kirkpatrick, from the rural community of Scappoose, who has the story of being in a stream and had the misfortune of having her hand caught in the vice-like grip of one of these traps, a device set out in the water to crush the vertebrae of beaver, muskrat, or otter that swims into it. She indicated it was the most excruciating pain she had ever endured.

Because the trap was so large and powerful, she could not free her hand, with the trap crushing it. I think we can all imagine a car door slammed on our hand. She had to walk a

## Stop Inhumane Predator Control Measures

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quarter mile to her car and then drive several miles to a neighbor's home. The neighbor struggled 15 minutes to pry open that trap. She experienced a near complete loss of the use of her hand for 9 years. And being a seamstress, she was out of work and feared that her career would be over.

No place in Oregon, nor any other place in the West, is a logical area for the widespread use of these horrific traps and poisons at taxpayer expense. This amendment helps correct the problem. It does not stop private individuals who want to protect their livestock as they see fit. It simply requires the ranchers to assume the responsibility if they want to use these lethal weapons. I strongly urge approval of the amendment.