

to recognize that the Congress has in the past provided funding to contain the Asian Longhorned Beetle, and I would hope that the chairman's leadership can secure funding again this time around.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CROWLEY. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Illinois for their comments and would like to take a moment to recognize them for their work on behalf of their constituents to address the problem of the Asian Longhorned Beetle and work for its eradication. That is why the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and I have included language, both this year and last year, stating the destructive nature of the Asian Longhorned Beetle, as well as directing the Secretary to use CCC emergency and Emerging Plant Pest funds to address this situation.

I will make my best effort in conference for the inclusion of additional resources for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, known as APHIS, as they have done good work in addressing not only the problem of the Asian Longhorned Beetles but with a variety of other invasive species as well.

Additionally, I will work for increased resources to assist the Asian Longhorned Beetles project at APHIS. I recognize that if left unchecked the destruction of our Nation's trees, parks, and forests by the Asian Longhorned Beetle could cost tens of billions of dollars. Furthermore, I will continue the work the committee began to seek redress in the procedures used by the Office of Management and Budget in releasing emergency CCC funds requested by the Secretary.

Again, I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Illinois for their comments.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word, and want to continue a bit on this colloquy on the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

I, too, would like to join with the chairman of our subcommittee, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN), and state that I will work in conference for increased funding for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service so it has the resources to effectively battle such invasive species as the Asian Longhorned Beetle, the citrus canker, and the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, among others.

And I want to say to our colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH), that we know what leadership they have taken here in the Congress in bringing our attention to the problems that their home communities are facing. I hear that in New York City this week there have been additional sightings of the beetles near Central Park. And having traveled

to New York and Chicago, I can only imagine your park directors and what they are going through, because we have no known predator for this creature. The only solution we have is to basically cut down the trees and burn them.

Of course, we know that these creatures came in in packing crates from China, both in the wood and in the cardboard inside, unfortunately; and we are now trying to take more precautions to fumigate those crates when they come in here, but this is a very, very serious problem. And because there is no known predator, adjacent States that have agricultural production, for example in maple sugar and maple syrup, those forests are threatened, those groves and stands of trees are threatened by this very same insect.

So we hear the concerns of both the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH), and we will absolutely be bringing this to the attention of the conferees.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, the one thing I would like to say, and the gentlewoman just made reference to it, I would like to put in people's minds the picture of Central Park. It is one of the treasures of not only New York City, New York State, but really of this country. It is probably one of the most famous parks in all the world. Imagine what it would look like without any hard wood trees. Unimaginable.

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But the threat does exist and it is there.

I want to thank the gentlewoman and the gentleman for their work and I want to thank them in advance for their efforts very, very much.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, we thank both the gentlemen for coming down and leading the entire Congress and country in trying to resolve a problem that may have started in their community but is spreading just as the gypsy moth did many, many years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) assumed the Chair.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4762. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require 527 organizations to disclose their political activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 14 offered by Ms. KAPTUR:

Page 21, after line 4, insert the following new paragraph:

For an additional amount to prevent, control, and eradicate pests and plant and animal diseases, \$53,100,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the entire amount under this paragraph shall be available only to the extent that an official budget request for a specific dollar amount, that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement as defined in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, is transmitted by the President to the Congress: *Provided further*, That the entire amount under this paragraph is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, the amendment we are proposing today would provide an additional \$53.1 million in emergency appropriations to the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to deal with emergency situations we have been talking about today dealing with pests and diseases.

The additional amounts would bring total funding up to what the President's 2001 budget request had asked for in four critical lines within what we call APHIS, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, budget. These include emerging plant pests, invasive species, fruitfly exclusion and detection, and the contingency fund itself.

The bill, as reported by the subcommittee, provides \$57.1 million less than requested for the first items listed and very partially offsets this shortfall by providing \$4 million more than requested for the contingency fund. Our amendment eliminates the \$53.1 million shortfall in this very, very important account.

Now, these budget items are used by the Department of Agriculture to combat serious outbreaks of pests and diseases. People should think about their communities and some of the little green and yellow boxes that are put up on trees to detect what is happening across this country. We have just heard from two very distinguished Members from Illinois and from New York on the Asian longhorned beetle infestation