

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF  
2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the majority and minority for accepting my amendment to the farm bill on invasive species en bloc.

My amendment requires the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to submit an annual report to Congress on invasive species.

The report would include a list of invasive species in the country, their country of origin, how they got into the country, what year they entered the country, rate of entry, cost estimates, and a description of the ongoing research occurring to combat the species.

More importantly, the report must include a description of any legal recourse available to people affected by the species.

A 2005 study shows that invasive species cost the United States more than \$120 billion in damages every year.

U.S. agriculture loses \$13 billion annually in crops from invasive insects.

Every farmer, rancher, local government, non-profit or small business deserves to know what legal avenues are available to compensate them for dealing with an invasive spe-

cies that was brought into their backyard through no fault of their own.

Invasive species are not just harmful to humans or our food supply. They affect our endangered animals.

More than 400 of the over 1,300 species currently protected under the Endangered Species Act, and more than 180 candidate species for listing are considered to be at risk at least partly due to displacement by, competition with, or predation by invasive species.

My amendment seeks to bring an understanding to the challenge we are facing in combating invasive species.

Currently, no single clearinghouse exists to find out how many invasive species there are in the country, where those species came from, and what research is ongoing to combat that particular species.

How are we ever going to come up with a national strategy to combat invasive species if we don't know how what we are up against.

This information needs to be available to the public so we can begin a national conversation and put our best and brightest to the task of coming up with solutions for combating invasive species.

Again, I would like to thank the Members of the Agriculture Committee and I look forward to the remaining 2013 Farm Bill debates.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT  
WILLIAM LEE BERG

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the invaluable service to our nation by

Sergeant William Lee Berg, and to recognize the great work being done by the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office.

On Monday, June 24th, the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office will be assisting in honoring Sergeant Berg's legacy by presenting his family with several medals he earned during service in Vietnam, including the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with a Silver Star. Most notably, however, Sergeant Berg will be posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained in a helicopter crash as a door gunman while on a war mission on June 18, 1968, and the Air Medal for his participation in more than two dozen aerial missions in counterinsurgency operations. It goes without saying that Sergeant Berg's service to our nation was nothing short of exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to represent the people of Iowa, the city of Council Bluffs, and the important legacy of Sergeant Berg in the United States Congress. His heroic contribution to our nation's efforts in Vietnam represents just one example of the long tradition of selflessness and service upheld by Iowans serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in acknowledging Sergeant Berg's actions and thanking the Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs office for their assistance in this ceremony. I humbly express my sincere gratitude to all of our nation's veterans, service members and their families for their service and sacrifice.