

With Deepest Gratitude

A RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFazio

The longest-serving U.S. House member in Oregon's history, Rep. Peter DeFazio was first elected in 1986.

DeFazio's presence in Congress has been powerful, palpable and genuine. An incredible ally for wolves and predator protections, he has always been supportive of our work to reform wildlife policies and ban wildlife poisons.

He's always listened and he's always tried to help. Always!



Rep. Peter DeFazio (l) with Brooks Fahy in Eugene, OR office in 2013.

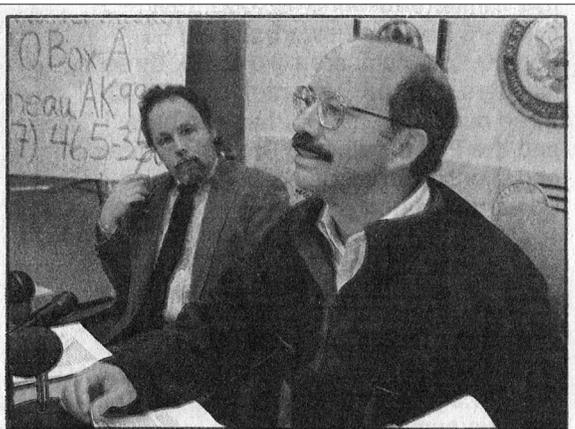
In 1992 I got a call from U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio's staff, asking if I would join him at a press conference to speak out against the aerial gunning of wolves in Alaska. Little did I know how dramatically attending that event would change the course of my life. Meeting him there—along with Barry Lopez, author of "Of Wolves and Men," who later became a supporter and inspiration—was pivotal in Predator Defense becoming a force for advocacy. We helped form a tourism boycott with several other organizations and got Alaska to, temporarily at least, stop the aerial gunning. DeFazio's wolf advocacy has continued to this day. He has repeatedly spoken truth to power about America's inhumane and counter-productive "management" of wildlife via slaughter and the vital role wolves and other native predators play in our ecosystems.

Another issue DeFazio helped boost tremendously was the need to ban wildlife poisons, including M-44 "cyanide bombs." In 1994 I came to him with the story of a woman who had a large family homestead in Harrisburg, OR whose dog was killed on her own property by an M-44 illegally set for predator control by the USDA Wildlife Services program. From that point on we worked together to ban M-44s and Compound 1080, another poison used by Wildlife Services. Over the decades I brought numerous individuals to Washington, D.C.—including M-44 victims and a Wildlife Services whistleblower—to tell their stories to him and other members of Congress. DeFazio was always supportive of both the victims and our work to ban M-44s. He facilitated briefings and press conferences at the Capitol in D.C. and made his staff available to help. They were always fantastic to work with. Most recently he sent a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, urging a ban on M-44s on all public lands under her jurisdiction.

DeFazio's presence was powerful, palpable and genuine. This was evident in his feature role in our 2013 award-winning film, "EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife." It was also demonstrated in the 2022 award-winning documentary, "Downfall: The Case Against Boeing." The film shows DeFazio's tenacity in taking on a corporate giant, as well as the depths of his decency. I've experienced the same tenacity and decency over the last three decades in our joint efforts to protect wolves and take on Wildlife Services' barbaric lethal predator control program.

If there ever was a true maverick in the U.S. Congress, it's Peter DeFazio. I will always feel incredibly fortunate that our paths crossed and am honored to call him a friend.

- Brooks Fahy, Executive Director



GEORGE MILLENER / The Register-Guard
Writer Barry Lopez and Rep. Peter DeFazio (right).

Above: Rep. DeFazio speaks at 1992 press conference opposing the aerial gunning of wolves in Alaska. Photo printed in "The Register-Guard" on Dec. 4, 1992.

REP. PETER DEFAZIO: A CHAMPION FOR NATIVE PREDATORS, PEOPLE & PETS

DeFazio's career is laden with accomplishments, but here are a few that are especially dear to our hearts, as they had a positive effect on habitat for native predators and/or made lives better for both Oregonians and all Americans:

- Permanently protecting over 390,000 acres of wilderness in the state of Oregon—an area half the size of Rhode Island—including the creation of the Devil's Staircase Wilderness, Copper Salmon Wilderness, Newberry National Volcanic Monument, Steens Mountain Wilderness, Oregon Caves National Monument, and River Styx, the only underground Wild and Scenic River in America;
- The largest expansion of Wild and Scenic rivers in the Lower 48;
- Banning the export of logs from federal lands to protect old growth forests;
- Establishing a USDA organics standard to empower consumers and support organic farmers;
- Increasing federal investment in America's infrastructure by more than \$550 billion, creating two million jobs a year over the next 10 years (this includes billions to repair and reconnect wildlife habitats!!!);
- Improving the federal highway funding formula to bring home an additional \$1.3 billion in funding to Oregon for roads, bridges and surface transportation projects;
- Investigating the fatal Boeing 737 MAX accidents, holding the FAA and Boeing accountable, reforming the airplane manufacturing certification process, and most importantly improving the safety of the traveling public;
- Removing the federal antitrust exemption from the health insurance industry to lower health care costs for all Americans.



ADOPTION DAY! DeFazio and his wife Myrnie in 2021 with Libby, their newly adopted black Lab rescue.

DRIVING FORCE FOR FEDERAL BAN ON WILDLIFE POISONS, INCLUDING M-44 'CYANIDE BOMBS'



A key trip to Washington, D.C. to call for a ban on M-44 "cyanide bombs" occurred in 2008, when we brought M-44 poisoning victim Dennis Slaugh (2nd from right) to share his devastating story. He brought Congressional staff to tears. Rep. DeFazio (2nd from left) facilitated this and subsequent visits by M-44 victims. Dennis suffered permanent disability from his poisoning and died in 2018. Cyanide poisoning from an M-44 device is listed as a significant causative condition on his death certificate. Also pictured: Brooks Fahy (far left) and Dennis' wife Dorothy Slaugh (far right).

In our decades-long work toward a nationwide ban on two deadly wildlife poisons—Compound 1080 and the M-44 sodium cyanide devices that indiscriminately kill wildlife, pets, and potentially people—DeFazio has been key to helping us wake members of Congress up. In 2005 he introduced the first bill to ban Compound 1080. In 2007, 2010 and 2017 he introduced legislation to eliminate both Compound 1080 and M-44s.

In 2019 he honored Canyon Mansfield—the Pocatello, ID teen who was poisoned and lost his dog in 2017—by introducing new legislation nicknamed "Canyon's Law" that was streamlined to ban M-44s. The subsequent 2021 bill, which was reintroduced in 2022, gained bipartisan support and a companion bill in the U.S. Senate. This final version of Canyon's Law was tailored specifically toward a public lands ban and advanced further than prior bills.

A hearing was held July 21, 2022 before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. Official testimony included a surprise statement from the Department of the Interior, indicating they were open to a ban, regardless of bill status. DeFazio and the Committee Chair followed up with a letter signed by 11 members of Congress, requesting an M-44 ban on all BLM lands they control. And so, we wait. For additional details, visit www.predatordefense.org/m44s.htm.