



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION – SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH USDA WILDLIFE SERVICES TO REQUIRE NON-LETHAL WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION STRATEGIES

WHEREAS, LULAC embraces a healthy environment and ecologically diverse wildlife ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, citizens and communities have fundamental rights regarding the protection of its wildlife as states have sovereign management of wildlife species not federally listed as threatened or endangered, and

WHEREAS, it is essential that local and state's rights to manage its wildlife be respected by federal agencies as they undertake actions that may impact them, to include USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS), and

WHEREAS, the stated mission of WS is to “provide Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist” and “WS provides partnership-based Federal leadership to help resolve wildlife conflicts through an integrated wildlife damage management (IWDM) approach” that focuses on “resource management, physical exclusion, and wildlife management” and

WHEREAS, contrary to WS stated mission of co-existence with wildlife and commitment to Integrated Damage Management options that utilize non-lethal mitigation strategies.

WHEREAS, even as local communities have tried to establish agreements with WS to require non-lethal mitigation strategies, WS has refused to sign agreements that enact this approach, both violating the line of authority of citizen's inherent rights of sovereign management of wildlife, and its own management directives to embrace non-lethal mitigation strategies.

WHEREAS recently in Grant County and Doña Ana County New Mexico the County governments passed resolutions which tried to prohibit the use of poisons and require WS employ non-lethal mitigation tactics first, and in both cases WS refused to enter the agreement, and

WHEREAS there are numerous stories nationally of similar conflicts with WS failure to work collaboratively with local communities, as well as negative outcomes of their reliance on lethal strategies that have caused death to pets and non-targeted wildlife, and individuals being injured.

Now, *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* by LULAC that Congress be directed to amend federal statute or rules to allow communities to choose non-lethal wildlife mitigation strategies as a basis of their agreements with WS, including the banning of poisons, M-44 cyanide traps, and leg hold traps.

FURTHERMORE, LULAC encourages WS to embrace its stated mission of “co-existence” with wildlife by immediately supporting local agreements that seek to require non-lethal wildlife conflict mitigation strategies as their primary approach.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2019 LULAC National Convention on July 13, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Domingo Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President