

the Appalachian Mountain Range. When implemented, Phase 2 of the NRMP seeks to systematically eliminate terrestrial rabies variants in the US. The local elimination of raccoon rabies from Long Island alone provided for cumulative financial benefits exceeding \$14 million in NY during 2016. Similarly, the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick (Canada) have derived positive One Health and financial benefits by eliminating periodic incursions of raccoon rabies from New York and the New England States.

The North American Rabies Management Plan provides a firm foundation for the US, Canada, and Mexico to establish international partnerships to control and eliminate rabies. Recent pharmaceutical evolutions and bait developments have resulted in novel products that have enhanced rabies vaccination efficacy in raccoons and skunks, thereby providing advanced tools that have successfully eliminated raccoon and fox rabies variants in the US and Canada. Strategic planning has also been completed in the form of expert panels and a DELPHI process, to formulate wildlife vaccination strategies and establish associated costs that are required to definitively achieve the goal of raccoon variant elimination in North America. An increase of \$12.5 million, added to the current USDA APHIS\$ WS budget for wildlife rabies control, will facilitate initiation of Phase 2 of the National Rabies Management Plan. USDA will be provided with the means to implement a coordinated and systematic approach towards raccoon rabies elimination. The programmatic successes that have already been achieved in the US and Canada will be expanded. As rabies elimination milestones are achieved within regions and states, it is expected that funding will also become increasingly available from state and local partners to accelerate the ultimate goal of terrestrial rabies elimination in North America.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Congress add \$12.5 million in the 2018 Farm Bill for the current annual, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services budget to initiate Phase 2 of the National Rabies Management Plan, raccoon rabies elimination in the United States.