118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. ______

To prohibit the use of M–44 devices, commonly known as “cyanide bombs”, on public land, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HUFFMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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A BILL

To prohibit the use of M–44 devices, commonly known as “cyanide bombs”, on public land, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as “Canyon’s Law”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Sodium cyanide is the highly toxic pesticide active ingredient used in M–44 devices, also known as “cyanide bombs”, and is used to kill wolves,
coyotes, foxes, and wild dogs suspected of preying on
livestock and poultry.

(2) Sodium cyanide is registered for restricted
use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.) as a Cat-
egory One acute toxicant, the most hazardous Envi-
ronmental Protection Agency classification available,
due to the harm it poses to people and the environ-
ment.

(3) Poisoning by sodium cyanide leads to cen-
tral nervous system depression, cardiac arrest, res-
piratory failure, paralysis, and blindness.

(4) The Environmental Protection Agency au-
thorizes the use of M–44 devices nationwide, and in
recent years, M–44s were used in Colorado, Idaho,
North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada,
Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia,
and Wyoming.

(5) In 2017, an M–44 device exposed an Idaho
child to a sublethal dose of sodium cyanide with sub-
sequent short-term and long-term medical complica-
tions. Two Wyoming children were also exposed to
the poison from another M–44 device. Three family
dogs died in these two separate incidents.
(6) The indiscriminate M–44 device commonly harms nontarget wildlife and people; at least 42 people have accidentally triggered a cyanide bomb causing exposure to cyanide gas and injuries since 1984.

(7) M–44 devices kill targeted animals only 53 percent of the time. Thousands of nontarget species of animals have been killed by M–44s, including bald eagles, golden eagles, gray wolves, black bears, grizzly bears, bobcats, fishers, and family dogs.

(8) Despite the United States Fish and Wildlife Service determining in 1993 that M–44 devices could kill endangered species like the California Condor, the use of the M–44 continues in areas where endangered species are found and continues to result in the deaths of endangered species.

SEC. 3. USE OF M–44 DEVICES ON PUBLIC LAND PROHIBITED.

(a) In General.—Preparing, placing, installing, setting, deploying, or otherwise using an M–44 device on public land is prohibited.

(b) Removal.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, any Federal, State, or county agency that has prepared, placed, installed, set, or deployed an M–44 device on public land shall remove each such M–44 device from public land.
(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) M–44 DEVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “M–44 device” means a device designed to propel sodium cyanide when triggered by an animal.

(B) COMMON NAMES.—The term “M–44 device” includes any device that may be commonly known as an “M–44 ejector device” or an “M–44 predator control device”.

(2) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” means any Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of a public land management agency.

(3) PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term “public land management agency” means each of, or a combination of, the following:

(A) The National Park Service.

(B) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(C) The Bureau of Land Management.

(D) The Bureau of Reclamation.

(E) The Forest Service.