

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On

H.R. 925, H.R. 1747, H.R. 2748, H.R. 2854, H.R. 2918,
H.R. 2956, H.R. 3399, H.R. 4340, H.R. 4341 and H.R. 4348

September 24, 2019

Congressman Jim Costa

Statement for the Record on *H.R. 3399*

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for holding this hearing today for us to discuss the importance of *H.R. 3399* and nutria populations. *H.R. 3399* would amend and reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to include California and direct 7 million dollars towards efforts to rid the species from California once and for all.

Nutria, commonly known as swamp rats to many, are an invasive species from South America that continues to pose a serious threat to the San Joaquin Valley. This species continues to damage our already fragile water infrastructure system by destroying canals and levees, which in turn could lead to flooding and threaten water deliveries to our farmers. Nutria are known to reproduce rapidly, making it nearly impossible to control the population without the proper resources. In 2017 out of the 510 found in California, 430 of them were in Merced County. *H.R. 3399* will provide the funds necessary for long term fight ahead against this invasive species.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill with my colleagues. I want to thank Congressman Josh Harder for his leadership on this bill and urge my colleagues to support *H.R. 3399*.