



NATIONAL HORSE & BURRO RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COALITION

*Advocating for commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing horses and burros
to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations*

DATE: 25 July 2017
TO: U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
FROM: National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition
RE: **Approval of amendment regarding the management of wild horses and burros in
FY2018 Interior and Environment bill**

Dear House Appropriations Committee Members:

The National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition thanks you for approving Congressman Chris Stewart's amendment to the FY 2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies spending bill regarding wild horse and burro management.

We recognize this amendment presented a difficult decision, and we commend you for your courage in making this tough vote. Your decision to adopt this amendment will help ensure that wild horses and burros can continue to thrive on healthy rangelands, alongside native wildlife and other multiple uses of our public lands.

Wild horses and burros have continued to exceed ecologically-based management objectives. As populations keep increasing, our public rangelands are further depleted. More than 73,000 animals reside on rangelands that can support less than 27,000. Such overpopulation degrades rangeland health, causing horses and burros to face starvation and dehydration, and negatively affecting habitats for native wildlife.

This amendment follows a September 2016 recommendation of the National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board. If the amendment becomes law, the Bureau of Land Management will be able to use management tools that have always been a part of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, as amended. Pursuing more effective management strategies will help ensure wild horses and burros thrive alongside our native wildlife on healthy public rangelands. In addition, financial resources currently dedicated to holding more than 46,000 animals in pastures and corrals could be put to more effective conservation efforts that will support healthy rangelands.

Your vote was not an expression of malice toward America's wild horses and burros; it was recognition that sustaining a future for wild horses and burros, native wildlife, and healthy ecosystems on our public rangelands requires active, pragmatic management approaches, as contemplated in the original act. Thank you, again, for your courage and support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Coalition as a resource in the future.

Sincerely,



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The National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition includes more than 18 national organizations, encompassing a wide range of sportsmen, livestock grower, state and local government, wildlife, and land conservation organizations and professional societies. Collectively, we represent over 10 million Americans and 6,000 local governments, and focus on commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing horses and burros to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations.

American Farm Bureau Federation • American Sheep Industry Association • Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Masters of Foxhounds Association • Mule Deer Foundation • National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Counties • National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Cattlemen's Beef Association • National Rifle Association • National Wildlife Refuge Association
Public Lands Council • Public Lands Foundation • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Safari Club International
Society for Range Management • The Wildlife Society • Wild Sheep Foundation