

**PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.**  
FOURTH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

504 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2315

122 N. CORTEZ STREET, SUITE #104  
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301  
(928) 445-1683

6499 SOUTH KINGS RANCH ROAD, SUITE 4  
GOLD CANYON, AZ 85118  
(480) 882-2697

220 N. 4TH STREET  
KINGMAN, AZ 86401  
(928) 445-1683

ONE CITY PLAZA, SUITE #161  
YUMA, AZ 85364  
(480) 882-2697

[WWW.GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV)



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**

SUBCOMMITTEES

INTERIOR

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

SUBCOMMITTEES

VICE CHAIRMAN, WATER,  
POWER AND OCEANS

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

INDIAN, INSULAR AND  
ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

June 24, 2016

Ms. Suzanne Roy  
Campaign Director  
American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign  
P.O. Box 1048  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Ms. Simone Netherlands  
Salt River Wild Horse Management Group  
4610 North 68 Street Unit 477  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Dear Ms. Roy and Ms. Netherlands:

I write to clarify and correct an apparent misunderstanding arising out of a recent House Committee on Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee oversight hearing. The focus of the hearing was on discussing the challenges and potential solutions in relation to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) mismanagement of wild horses and burros on federal lands. After the hearing, I became aware that my position was being incorrectly described as supporting "horse slaughter" and of claims that I stated at the hearing that we need to "remove all sale limitations and make possible horse euthanasia."

Let me be clear about my position. I do not support horse slaughter. Further, I never stated we need "to remove all sale limitations and make possible horse euthanasia." In actuality, I stated repeatedly during the hearing that we should consider the most humane and cost efficient strategies for preventing animal starvation and managing these populations in a responsible manner. There were a variety of challenges and proposals discussed at the hearing and I did not embrace any one particular management strategy. That being said, I do believe that fertility control should be one of the methods utilized to ensure proper management of wild horse and burro populations.

My primary concern as the Congressman for the 4th Congressional District is how to deal with increasing burro populations in Arizona and the public safety risks that they are creating. For example, in a three-year period in Bullhead City, there were 32 accidents involving burros and vehicles. In the Phoenix area during that same timeframe, there were 121 burro incidents and the BLM documented 55 burros that were killed on roadways. Unfortunately, concerns about properly managing burros are not limited to these two cities. I have also heard from constituents in Lake Havasu City, Yuma and Oatman about the challenges they face managing burro populations.

Beyond vehicle property damage and the painful and traumatic deaths for the burros, people are

being injured. The damage to the ecosystem and harm to indigenous species from mismanaged burro populations is also problematic, but public safety is my primary focus. As a result of mismanagement on federal lands by the BLM, burro populations have grown well beyond the identified management objectives in certain areas of Arizona.

Witnesses at the hearing testified that taxpayers are currently spending \$50 million annually on horses and burros in holding facilities, current populations are 250% above the identified goal for BLM lands, and that horses and burros are dying and starving in some areas as a result. The intent of my question about an appropriation's rider was to help identify whether or not federal policies and directives are preventing humane management of horses and burros on the range, something I have heard repeatedly from stakeholders. Again, I oppose horse slaughter and believe we should pursue the most humane and effective management strategies possible.

In fact, I have worked to include language in an Appropriation's report that I believe we can all agree on. Specifically, the Interior Appropriations Committee Report included language stating, "The Committee further directs the Bureau to work cooperatively with States and other partners to control wild horse and burro herds." Such language is intended to give states and organizations like yours a seat at the table when it comes to the responsible and humane management of horse and burro populations.

I have never proposed anything in relation to the Salt River Horses that would be detrimental to the herd. I have nothing but respect for those who highly value these animals and would never discredit their passion for maintaining horse and burro populations. I am fully supportive of sustainable wild horse and burro populations on our public lands.

I hope this information is useful to you and that you will share it with your constituent organizations. I would like to extend the opportunity for you and your staff to meet with my office so we can further discuss why the current process isn't working and possible solutions for better managing wild horse and burro populations in a more humane manner on federal lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S." The signature is stylized and includes a large, looped initial "P" and "G".

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress.