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The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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

March 22, 2016

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I urge you **NOT** to include a rider in this year's bill that would prohibit public land management agencies from complying with the law and managing wild horse and burro populations in the most humane and cost efficient manner possible.

On November 4, 2015, 20 bicameral members of Congress wrote to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze expressing significant concerns about management strategies for wild horse and burro populations.

The letter pointed out that "almost half of the 100,000 horses under the purview of the BLM are located in holding facilities off the range, and adoptions have fallen almost 70 percent in the last ten years." The BLM estimates a lifetime cost of \$50,000 to taxpayers for each animal that is not adopted and remains in long-term holding. The BLM also estimates that wild horse and burro populations have grown by nearly 20 percent in the last year.

The unnecessary rider that has been inserted in previous appropriations bills has exacerbated these challenges. Accordingly, I ask that you not include a legislative rider has been inserted in recent years and prohibited public land management agencies from using funds to comply with Section 1333(b)(2)(C) of Title 16 of United States Code.

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress