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U.S. CITIZENS ONLY - ALSO SEND COMMENTS TO:
The Honorable Representative [YOUR REP'S NAME]
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator [YOUR SENATOR'S NAME]
The U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building
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President Obama, Vice President Biden, Acting Assistant Attorney General Cruden, Secretary Salazar, Bureau of Land Management, and Members of Congress:

The Bureau of Land Management has mishandled the Wild Horse and Burro Program for years — governing for extinction rather than preservation.

Despite vast public opposition, the agency's 2010 Round-Up Schedule calls for the seizure of another 12,000 wild horses and burros, with taxpayers footing a \$32 million bill.

By catering to special interests such as big game hunting, mining, oil drilling, development, and ranching, BLM impounds more horses than it can adopt out. To deal with "surplus" American horses and burros in federal holding, the animals commonly wind up on the auction block, sold to "killer-buyers," and trucked to foreign kill floors.

I understand a lawsuit has been filed to stop the removal of more than 2,500 horses in Nevada's Calico Complex. Originally slated for December 9, 2009, the mass roundup is now delayed until December 28. I sincerely hope the delay results in a permanent injunction against the roundup, and also prompts the Justice Department to intensify its investigation of BLM.

The Calico Complex removal exemplifies some core problems with BLM. After the same herd was corralled in 2005, all mares among an estimated 575 horses left on the range received contraceptive vaccines. Today, BLM argues that 3,000 horses roam the area. It is outlandish to assert that a small herd controlled with contraception quintupled in size in less than five years. In fact, residents accustomed to the herd claim numbers are far lower.

Ultimately, the government must place a moratorium on roundups until impartial analysts count how many wild horses and burros literally inhabit public lands. Moreover, I urge the White House and Congress to advocate reinstatement of wild horses and burros in their native Western range, where they can live naturally as American symbols of majesty and freedom.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971 (ROAM) will renew protections originally granted in 1971. Passage of this bill would keep these magnificent creatures where they belong — on public, Western rangelands. I am counting on your support and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,