

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable David Bernhardt  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Dear Secretary Bernhardt,

We write regarding the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") report on the Wild Horse and Burro Program, as it is now approximately 91 days past the deadline for that report. Each day, the number of wild horses and burros in the BLM's care continues to grow both on and off-the-range, with current estimates at around 88,000 animals on-the-range and close to 47,000 held off-the-range. It is clear that the BLM's current practice of rounding up wild horses and burros and warehousing them off-the-range is not addressing the population growth, and we urge BLM to release their plan for Congressional review immediately.

Congress has twice asked BLM to determine how to revamp the Wild Horse and Burro Program, the agency's management program for wild horses and burros.<sup>1</sup> However, the report submitted to Congress on April 26, 2018, entitled "Management Options for a Sustainable Wild Horse and Burro Program" only provided Congress with potential management options while providing little detail on BLM's actual management strategy going forward. Thus, Congress determined that more analysis was needed to better design and implement an effective management program. This report was to be supplemented by additional analysis from the BLM to Congress no later than 180 days after the enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019, or by July 24, 2019.<sup>2</sup>

The details of what should be included in the supplemental report are outlined in H. Rept. No 115-765, and include the following:

The Committee requests that the Bureau conduct an analysis that identifies factors for success, total funding requirements, and expected results on potential options that (1) remove animals from the range; (2) increase the use of sterilization; (3) increase the use of short-term fertility control; (4) provide an adoption incentive of \$1,000 per animal; and either (a) allow animals older than 10 years of age to be humanely euthanized; or (b) prohibit the use of euthanasia on healthy wild horses and burros.

The Committee also requests an analysis on (1) options to enter into long-term contractual or partnership agreements with private, non-profit entities to reduce the cost of holding wild horses and burros for their natural lives and (2) the feasibility of assigning full responsibility for care for wild horses and burros removed from the range to these types of entities.

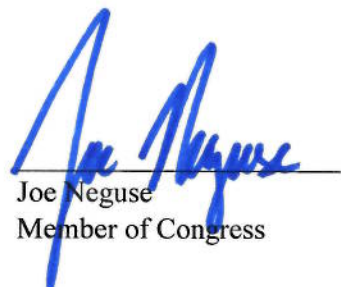
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<sup>1</sup>P.L. 115-31, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 and P.L. 116-6, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019.

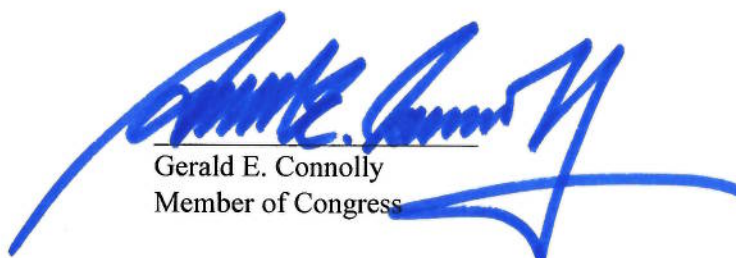
<sup>2</sup>H. Rep. No. 116-9.

This report is essential to the responsible development of the Wild Horse and Burro Program, to ethical and humane treatment of these animals, and to Congress's understanding and oversight of the Bureau's proposed methodologies – both in funding and practice – moving forward. As it is now approximately 60 days past the deadline, the Bureau should promptly provide an update of the status of the report and expedite its finalization and submission to Congress.

Sincerely,




Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress