



July 3, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

In 2017 both United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leadership approached the American Horse Council (AHC) with requests to investigate the health and welfare of the wild horses under the protection of the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1974. After exhaustive research including numerous interviews with stakeholders, presentations from BLM, input from the American Association of Equine Practitioners, others, and attendance by AHC personnel at the Summit on Management of Free-Roaming Equids, the AHC is issuing the following statement.

“The free-roaming wild horse and burro population has reached a critical level, which is negatively impacting the health and welfare of the horses & burros as well as that of wildlife and the ecosystem.

“The American Horse Council strongly encourages the Bureau of Land Management to take immediate, meaningful action to positively impact the health and welfare of wild horses, burros, wildlife and the ecosystem.”

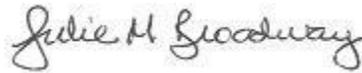
The AHC is a Washington-based advocacy organization that represents the equine industry before Congress and the federal regulatory agencies. AHC member organizations include breed registries, national and state equine associations, state horse councils, recreational associations, and organizations representing race tracks, horsemen, horse shows, veterinarians, farriers, rodeos, and other equine-related stakeholders. Individually, and through our organizational members, the AHC represents close to one million horse owners and others involved in all sectors of the horse industry.

The horse industry, in all its segments of racing, showing, recreation and work horses, involves 7.2 million horses, has a \$122 billion impact on the U.S. economy and supports 1.7 million jobs. It involves agriculture, sport, entertainment, gaming, recreation, and work horses, all built on the breeding, training, use and enjoyment of horses and horse activities.

The AHC appreciates the various positions taken by groups representing the interests of the ranchers sharing these rangelands; the environmentalists and wild life advocates seeking to protect the land, water and wildlife; the public who desires to see wild horses on the landscapes; and of course the groups whose priority is the health and welfare of the free-roaming horses and burros. The equine industry shares all of these concerns, as they are also stakeholders in these communities. The AHC thanks the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management for their time and consideration of this very serious and complicated matter.

Please contact the American Horse Council if you would like to discuss this further or in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie M. Broadway". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Julie Broadway, CAE ®  
President