

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
The Honorable Megan Dahle, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AJR 5 SUPPORT

Dear Chair Garcia, Vice-Chair Dahle and Members of the Committee:

We write to support AJR 5, introduced by Assemblywomen Luz Rivas and Marie Waldron, to urge a moratorium on federal wild horse and burro roundups in the state.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, through our tax dollars, provides public lands and protection for wild horses and burros. The law states that “It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.”

AJR 5 recognizes the 50th anniversary of the [Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act](#), and calls for a return to the original provisions, which have eroded over time from changes to Interior budgets passed by Congress. The Bureau of Land Management continues to increase roundups as though the animals are pests, rather than an integral part of the ecosystem. The majority of Americans see these majestic creatures as living symbols of freedom and America’s enduring spirit.

Since 2018 in California, thousands of wild horses and burros have been rounded up by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service at Twin Peaks and Modoc Forest, many of which were later sold and subsequently shipped across the border to slaughterhouses. Assemblywoman Waldron and then-Assemblymember Todd Gloria led significant efforts to stop those roundups, yet they continue. 2020 data from the BLM website shows that it seeks to remove 10,000 of the 12,000 horses and burros in California.

Currently, the BLM is seeking to completely remove burros in Inyo county from three herds by reducing the allowable numbers from nearly 1800 to zero. These plans do not reflect the integral role the equids play in our fire-ravaged lands, and are incongruent with California’s biodiversity action plan, which Governor Newsom prioritized last year with [Executive Order N-82-20](#), launching the [California Biodiversity Collaborative](#).

It is the way of California to uphold within the state federal laws that protect all of California, particularly when those laws become compromised. For this reason, and those listed above, I urge you to pass AJR 5 to end the wild horse and burro roundups in California.

Respectfully,

Name
City