(Date)

Good Morning (Senator or Congressman/Congresswoman),

With over 500 horse and burro rescue organizations across the United States, it’s clear Americans care about equines.  Recently, American Wild Horse Campaign conducted an independent investigation which revealed over 840 branded and protected wild horses and burros were found in kill/slaughter pens in the past 19 months.  The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Adoption Incentive Program (AIP) for wild horses, which has cost taxpayers $12M, is a dismal failure with under 3% of horses being adopted.  More importantly, the Bureau of Land Management has failed to follow up and manage the program as designed, and repeatedly and knowingly awards incentives to repeat adopters who adopt up to four horses at a time, wait until they are titled, then sell them to kill pens. They then repeat the process time and time again with no recourse.  Some adopters have made tens of thousands of dollars, yet neither the BLM nor the adopters are hold accountable for the safety or condition of the wild horses.

Here is a very recent specific example of the AIP program being abused for money as explained by Skydog Sanctuary: 28 wild horses were recently run through the Worland auction in Wyoming. Six wild horses went to the Stroud Oklahoma kill pen and their titles show they were from the same family as the Colorado kill pen wild horses, and all were part of the Adoption Incentive Program. Two wild horses were rescued at the auction, twenty went to Colorado, four were bought privately.

The remaining 16 wild horses were saved by Skydog Sanctuary and American Wild Horse Campaign in partnership. The names on the titles show Bob Nicol of Fort Washakie, WY, Sherrie Corliss of Lovell WY, Dale Harris of Granger, WY, Deanne J Harris of Granger, WY, Sierra Harris of Worland, WY and Kaden Harris of Worland, WY.

The Harris Family (from AWHC’s Report on the AIP) have used the AIP numerous times with large numbers of wild horses. Documents from the BLM Wyoming State Office shows a group of four related individuals adopted the maximum number of BLM animals each, totaling 16 animals. FOIA’s requested (Freedom of Information Act) show that the Harris family received the title for these animals in March 2021, with the final incentive payment in April 2021. Then, between May and June 2021, the original 4 individuals, plus 2 new family members, each adopted four more BLM wild horses through the AIP.

The incentive payments brought in by this family total approximately $40,000 of taxpayer money. There are serious concerns about the whereabouts of the original 16 wild horses the Harris family ‘adopted’ and the safety of the 24 additional wild horses once title is passed and full incentive payment is received.

Another family running the same scam for the BLM incentive money, the Nicol family, Bob and Detta Nicol’s horses, were titled to a PO Box in Fort Washakie WY. Why is the BLM allowing the adoption of wild horses to a PO Box address and how does the BLM expect to do an inspection of the wild horses whereabouts and condition?

With no oversight, the AIP program is a path for sending our protected wild horses and burros to slaughter.  In addition, quarter horses and thoroughbreds, both victims of overbreeding for greed, as well as privately owned horses whose owners can no longer afford to care and feed them due to the economy and high cost of feed, are also reaching the slaughter pipeline.

Bills to abolish horse slaughter have been introduced for over 11+ years but have never passed through Congress.  The SAFE Act HR3355 Save America’s Forgotten Equine Act and S2732, the John Stringer Rainey Save America’s Forgotten Equines Act, recently passed through subcommittee with a unanimous vote and is awaiting mark up in Committee.  I am asking for your support of The SAFE Act, so we can finally eliminate equine slaughter in our country.  After so many years, it’s time.

In addition, in May 2021 Senator Dianne Feinstein wrote a letter to Secretary Deb Haaland at the Department of the Interior expressing her great concerns regarding the Adoption Incentive Program run by the BLM. She requested Secretary Haaland immediately halt the Adoption Incentive Program and ensure a proper investigation is conducted to prevent future wild horses and burros from suffering abuse or slaughter. I ask that you also encourage the BLM to halt the AIP program until an investigation can be conducted to ensure America’s wild horses do not end up in the slaughter pipeline at the expense of the equines welfare and Americans taxpayer dollars.

Please see the attached links for more specific information on what is really happening with the slaughter pipeline.

 https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/\_cache/files/2/9/2967ffef-844c-4124-af67-73c9b09c0b5a/E75AE4F17408302ACD6F6B16119DC73D.wild-horse-burro-letter.pdf

<https://www.instagram.com/p/ChKqdl1OhGw/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/ChiN61tvPp6/>

Sincerely,

(your name)