

ROBERT REDFORD

May 17, 2005

Dear Representative:

I am writing to express my support for the Rahall-Whitfield Amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill. This amendment would prohibit the appropriation of Federal tax dollars in funding the sale or slaughter of wild horses.

In 1971, concern over the dwindling numbers of wild horses spawned a massive public outcry and the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act was passed. This act represented the express intent of the American people and guaranteed the wild horse a home on our vast western rangelands. The subsequent gutting of the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act in the 2005 Appropriations bill undermined both the spirit of the law and the will of the American people.

I believe, as do so many of my fellow Americans, that the wild horse is an irreplaceable national treasure. The ancestors of these horses pulled our plows, carried soldiers into battle, and made it possible for pioneers to make their historical journey across the vast plains to settle the West. The majesty of the wild horse is permanently woven into the tapestry of American culture, and represents one of our most cherished values - freedom. It would be a tragic mistake to allow this noble creature to disappear from our western landscape.

I hope that you will join me in this effort to protect and preserve the American wild horse by voting "yes" on the Rahall-Whitfield Amendment. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Redford", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.