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Dear Sirs,

OR Senator James Manning Jr.

OR Representative Charlie Conrad

This letter is being submitted to you in an effort to bring your attention to an urgent matter that falls into the category of animal cruelty. We appreciate your advocacy and demonstrated compassion in speaking up for the voiceless. We request your support to end the ongoing cruelty to Oregon's Wild Equines.

Today our wild horses and burros need the protection of Oregon State animal cruelty laws within the existing legislative rules. They are scheduled to be rounded up by helicopter and driven over dangerous rocky and mountainous terrain in extreme heat. They are then separated from their families and sterilized, only to be housed in unsafe and inhumane conditions at the BLM holding facilities. These facilities lack basic shelter and protection from the elements. Many die from injuries inflicted during the round up, or in holding with minimal veterinary intervention, or are euthanized at the trap site for "pre-existing conditions," that cannot be substantiated as dangerous to their safety. The BLM has clear rules against the cruel practices (use of electric prods, tripping, dragging with ropes) that are seen in round ups and holding pens referred to as CAWP (CAWP: Comprehensive Animal Welfare Program). These rules are frequently discarded in favor of expediency and profit, and are largely unenforceable by outside agencies. We believe that Oregon needs to outlaw round ups in favor of more humane management strategies.

We had hoped to introduce state level legislation to protect them. It now looks like the only hope might be to include them in the Oregon State animal welfare legislation and possibly the amendments being considered (HB 3384 and/or HB 2148) this session in the Oregon legislature. If the round ups are not stopped, or monitored in light of Oregon Animal Cruelty Laws, 2025 will be too late for most of the horses that are free roaming in this state now, due to the escalation of scheduled BLM round ups in Oregon and the extreme weather conditions impacting their health during round ups and in the holding facilities. They are a native species in Oregon, fast approaching genetic extinction.

For your consideration we are attaching the Federal Bill designed to stop the use of Helicopters in round ups (HR 3656 The WHB Protection Act of 2023/4, D. Titus) which could be modified to become an Oregon Law. This practice is clear animal cruelty by Oregon Standards. We also included a copy of the New York State Bill modeled on a federal bill (HR 3475, the SAFE Act) to meet requirements in New York State to stop the slaughter and transport for slaughter of horses in New York State which became state law recently. We will follow up in the next week with additional information that offers clear indications of need for immediate action.

Respectfully and with Gratitude, Your Oregon Residents

Lorna Torrey Palermo, AWE

Linda L. Wallace AWE

[https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3656/text#:~:text=Introduced%20in%20House%20\(05%2F24%2F2023\)&text=To%20amend%20the%20Act%20commonly,burros%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3656/text#:~:text=Introduced%20in%20House%20(05%2F24%2F2023)&text=To%20amend%20the%20Act%20commonly,burros%2C%20and%20for%20other%20purposes)

<https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2023/S2163B>

See Attached References:

Documentation of cruelty

JULY 20, 2023 / 6:15 AM / CBS/AP

11 Horses die in Barbaric Round Up In Nevada Caught on Video showing animals with broken necks. CBS, Saturday Morning

Published 9:24 AM EDT, Fri July 21, 2023, Animal Advocates call for changes to Wild Horse Wrangling following Deaths During Round Up in Nevada. By Chris Boyette and Andy Rose, CNN

<https://wildhorseeducation.org/2024/02/05/east-pershing-new-baby-run-roundup-update/>

<https://wildhorseeducation.org/2024/02/04/east-pershing-roundup-spiced-up-hotshots-2-3/>

<https://americanwildhorsecampaign.org/media/internal-reports-document-widespread-animal-welfare-violations-federal-wild-horse-holding>

<https://www.frontrangeequinerescue.org/violations-noted-in-wild-horse-burro-holding-facilities/>

Wild Horse are Sentient Beings.

<https://www.becauseofhorses.com/episode-36-mustang-meg>