

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2026

The Honorable Secretary Rollins  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Rollins:

Thank you for your continued leadership at USDA. We are grateful for your partnership and write today to raise two matters of importance to our constituents and to the many Americans who care deeply about the future of our nation's wild horse herds.

The Salt River horses hold a special place in Arizona's history and identity, a fact reflected in a dedicated state statute protecting their right to remain in the wild. We were therefore surprised when, in August 2024, the Forest Service transmitted a request to the Arizona Department of Agriculture seeking revisions to its management plan that would remove these horses from their habitat particularly given the agency's position in May 2024 litigation, where it disclaimed authority over the management of these very horses. We also have concerns that the Forest Service's participation in the planning process may not have complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, and we hope to work together to ensure that the process is on a solid legal footing going forward.

On a related matter, we wish to draw your attention to the Heber Wild Horse Territory, where the Forest Service has authorized the impoundment of horses identified as "unauthorized livestock" as of April 27th. We recognize that horses protected under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act are excluded from that category, and we are confident that is the intent. We raise this simply to underscore the importance of clear protocols being in place to ensure that federally protected wild horses are not inadvertently caught up in the effort.

We would welcome the opportunity for our staffs to connect with yours to work through both of these issues and find a path forward. Thank you again for your time and attention, and please do not hesitate to reach out if a direct conversation would be helpful.

Sincerely,

  
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Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress

  
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David Schweikert  
Member of Congress