

Dear Mr. Klimas:

Thank you for writing to express your opposition to provide Federal funding to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) wild horse and burro program. I appreciate the time you took to write and apologize for the delay in my response.

I understand you are concerned that the BLM is removing wild horses and burros from rangelands and placing them in holding facilities. Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the BLM is to protect wild horses and burros, set appropriate management levels (AML), maintain current inventory counts, and remove "excess" animals to prevent overpopulation and rangeland damage.

As you may know, in February 2010, Interior Secretary Salazar outlined a new plan to implement a sustainable wild horse and burro program. The strategy emphasizes a combination of aggressive fertility control, the relocation of some wild horses to new preserves in the Midwest with better water and forage supplies, and providing special designations for selected herds in the West.

The President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal requested \$75.7 million for the wild horse and burro program, a nearly \$12 million increase over the fiscal year 2010 enacted level of \$63.9 million. The increased funding is meant to implement Secretary Salazar's efforts plan to reform the program. In addition, the budget proposal includes an increase of \$42 million, a total of \$83 million, in land acquisition funding to purchase land for one wild horse preserve.

No regular appropriations bill to fund Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2011 was enacted before the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2010. A series of laws generally continuing funds for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2010 levels have been enacted. Most recently, the Continuing Appropriations and Surface Transportation Extensions Act, 2011 (Public Law 111-322) was signed into law on December 22, 2010. This law extended fiscal year 2010 funding through March 4, 2011.

I share your concern for the fate of our nation's wild horse populations, and I believe it is critical to seek solutions that will allow horses to live out their natural lives while being treated humanely and being adopted when possible.

Please know that I will keep your thoughts in mind throughout the appropriations process for fiscal year 2011. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3841. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Further information about my position on issues of concern to California and the Nation are available at my website <http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/>. You can also receive electronic e-mail updates by subscribing to my e-mail list at <http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ENewsletterSignup.Signup>. Feel free to checkout my YouTube page <http://www.youtube.com/Senatorfeinstein>