

WILLIE NELSON

LUCK ★ TEXAS

May 18, 2005

SUPPORT RAHALL/WHITFIELD INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT TO PREVENT AMERICA'S WILD HORSES FROM BEING SLAUGHTERED

To All Members of Congress:

As a nation that prides itself on leadership, we are long overdue in stopping the slaughter of wild and domestic horses for dishes in fancy foreign restaurants. The recent commercial sale and slaughter of our wild horses is just the latest example of how far we as Americans have lowered our standards of decency.

The recent news of 41 wild horses being sold to buyers who immediately resold them directly or indirectly to the horse slaughterhouse in Illinois is heartbreaking, but sadly not unexpected. Unless Congress acts now to end this tragic turn of events, more horses will meet a terrible fate.

No animal should be hauled across the country under the unhealthy and cruel conditions these horses face, whether the animal is acquired legally or illegally. Following their faithful service to humankind, horses should not be killed so diners can eat their meat abroad.

Horses have always been a symbol of America—most people in our country wouldn't even consider eating them for dinner.

We strongly support the Rahall/Whitfield Interior Appropriations Amendment to restore protections for wild horses and burros. We urge you to follow the outstanding leadership of the amendment's sponsors and support the legislation as well. It's about saving the lives of thousands of innocent horses, but it's also about a better America.

On behalf of my friends, thank you for your urgent consideration of the effort to end horse slaughter. For additional information please call (703) 836-4300.

Sincerely,



Ed Asner

Ed Begley Jr.

*Randy Bernard,
CEO, Professional Bull Riders, Inc.*

Kelly Bishop

Linda Blair

John Corbett

Tony Curtis

Bo Derek

Mike Epps

Will Estes

Morgan Fairchild

Kinky Friedman

Jorja Fox

John Fusco, screenwriter

Richard Gere

Whoopi Goldberg

Jane Goodall, PhD.

Tippi Hedren

Laura Hillenbrand, author

George Jones

Toby Keith

Eddy Kilroy, Hank's Place

Carole King

Wendie Malick

Peter Max

Mary Tyler Moore

Patrick McDonnell, MUTTS ©

Sir Paul McCartney

Ali McGraw

Richard Pryor

Carl Reiner

Eric Roberts

Theresa Russell

Nicollette Sheridan

*Chris Shivers,
two-time World Champion Bull Rider*

Bernie Taupin

Billy Bob Thornton

*Mike White,
World Champion Bull Rider*

Noah Wile

Nick Zito