NACO
NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
201 S. Roop Street, Suite 101 Carson City, NV 89701-4790

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REC'D - BLM - NSO
FEB 11 2010
9:00 A.M.

Kenneth Salazar
Secretary, Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Bob Abbey
Director, Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington, DC 20240

February 9, 2010

Dear Secretary Salazar and Director Abbey,

The Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) wishes to express our support of your efforts to effectively manage the populations of wild horses and burros in our state. Under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195), your agencies have been charged with the responsibility of determining the appropriate management level of horses and burros in any given herd management area and of taking action to maintain the population within these levels. Further, the law requires that the population of wild horses and burros be managed in a manner consistent with the multiple-use management concept for the public lands under your supervision. As the vast majority of lands in Nevada are under federal jurisdiction adherence to the multiple-use concept is of the utmost importance to our counties and citizens. Many of the people of this great state recreate, hunt, fish and otherwise enjoy visiting the public lands. Other Nevadans utilize the public lands to extract mineral and other natural resources vital to the nation. Still other Nevadans operate grazing and or ranching operations on the public lands contributing to the food supply worldwide. All of these activities conducted on the public lands your agencies manage are critical to the quality of life of Nevadans and visitors alike, to the economies of Nevada counties and the country as a whole. The actions undertaken by your agencies to maintain horse and burro populations at the appropriate management level assure healthy forage conditions for the animals and the ability of the rangeland to support multiple use of the public lands.

Again, NACO strongly supports the efforts of the DOI and BLM to maintain wild horse and burro populations at the appropriate levels to maintain both viable, sustainable populations of these animals and provide for other uses of the lands that benefit the citizens of this country.

Sincerely,

Robin Williamson
President

Jerrie Tipton
Chair, Public Lands and
Natural Resources Committee

Jeff Fontaine
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable John Ensign
The Honorable Shelly Berkley
The Honorable Dean Heller
The Honorable Dina Titus
Ron Wenker, Nevada Director, BLM