

Dear _____,

As your constituent, I am urging you to support The Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act (TEAPSPA). This bill was reintroduced on May 21, 2019 by co-sponsors Representatives Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and David Schweikert (R-AZ).

Congress has a responsibility to protect the welfare of animals and ensure public safety. A prohibition on the use of exotic and wild animals in traveling circuses is proportionate, responsible, and the least expensive solution to this problem.

Traveling circuses are detrimental to animal welfare because of the adverse effects of captivity and transport. Due to severe confinement, lack of free exercise, and the restriction of natural behaviors, animals used in traveling circuses suffer and are prone to health, behavioral, and psychological problems. Careful research and detailed undercover investigations have shown the welfare of animals and safety of the public is unacceptably compromised under the confinement and the daily brutality of life on the road with a traveling circus. Law enforcement authorities have difficulty enforcing Federal animal health, safety, and welfare laws, and violations.

Reasons to support the Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act:

- Protects wild and exotic animals
- Prevents public safety hazards
- Saves taxpayer money: Federal oversight of traveling animal acts is costly, problematic, and unmanageable. Nominal licensing fees and minimal, inconsistent monetary penalties don't cover oversight costs; they are largely borne by taxpayers. The US taxpayer effectively pays for 87% of the licensing costs whereas the circus only pays 13%. To ban wild animals in circuses altogether is cleaner, less costly, and more easily enforced than the current, costly, admittedly problematic and ineffective regulatory oversight. The current administration is calling on Congress to make deep cuts to the budget, with an eye toward less government regulation. Passing the Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act (HR 1759) will protect animals and public safety while saving taxpayer money and reducing government regulation.

Once again, as your constituent, I am requesting that you support this vital bill to protect wild animals and the public. Not only does this bill promote compassion, it will end wasteful government spending.

Thank you for representing me.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email: