



Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

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Nevada Farm Bureau Testimony On SB 90 Assembly Government Affairs Committee

For the record, I'm Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President of the Nevada Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau is opposed to SB 90.

First, we wish to draw attention to the Whereas statement on page 1 of the bill, lines 11 through 14. The inference is that the Virginia Range Horses which are "Estray or Feral Livestock" and fall under Chapter 569 of Nevada Law are "wild mustangs". They are not.

There is a conflict with the language of section 1 – lines 10 and part of line 11 on page 2. This wording states, "Consistent with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, 16 U.S.C 1331"...and then continues to say that because "wild mustangs are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West" these wild mustangs are designated as the official state horse of the State of Nevada.

If this reference is to imply that the Virginia Range Horses, which are estray or feral livestock, are consistent with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act... they are not and don't qualify to be mustangs under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The Whereas on page 1, lines 11-15 should be deleted in order to be "Consistent with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

We also believe that if the other wild mustangs, which do qualify under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, need to be managed at Appropriate Management Levels in order to be Consistent with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act...

The language of this Act states in Section 1333 of the Wild Horse and Burro Act, regarding the Powers and Duties of the Secretary of Interior – “The Secretary shall manage wild free-roaming horses and burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands.”

Based on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) statistics of Nevada’s March 1, 2023 population estimate – there are 44,786 horses and 4,482 burros for a total of 49,268 animals. Nevada’s established High Appropriate Management Level is 12,811. The total numbers of wild horses and burros under BLM’s authority are nearly 4 times the amount of the high end of state’s AML. This is also not “Consistent with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act.”

We don’t believe that the language of SB 90 fits with the reality of the actual conditions in Nevada and offers a misrepresentation that should not be characterized as making the actual wild mustangs to be designated as the official state horse of the State of Nevada.