

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We write today in regards to the United States Forest Service's decision, announced on August 6, 2015, to reexamine the proposed plan to remove the Salt River horses from Tonto National Forest in Arizona. While we greatly appreciate the agency's decision to do so and its commitment to engaging with the local community as well as state and other federal agencies, we remain concerned with the plight of the Salt River Herd.

The Salt River Herd is one of our nation's most iconic herds; tourists come from across the nation to visit and photograph the Forest with specific hopes to catch a glimpse of one of these beautiful animals. While we understand the preservation of the habitat and the safety of the public is paramount, we urge that you take strides in this endeavor to ensure that any proposed plan not result in the sale of these horses at a livestock auction, which could potentially allow for their purchase by slaughter facilitators.

As we understand, the Service will continue seeking opportunities and solutions in order to ensure public safety of the National Forest, while safely managing the Salt River Herd population. As the agency remains in communication with numerous advocate groups, we offer our strong support for the implementation of a comprehensive and humane wild horse management approach, while also protecting Forest resources and visitors.

Again, we thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



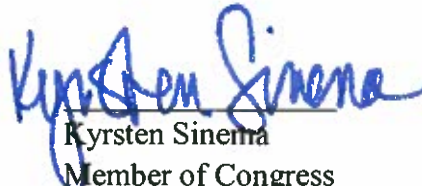
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress