

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My name is Josselyn Wolf and I am a seventeen-year-old artist, activist, and friend of the wild.

As Theodore Roosevelt himself reflected, "We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."

The moment I discovered wild horses' existence, I felt wonder not only at the natural freedom of these spirited beings, but in the fact that they have breathed, played, and formed bonds on our own Western lands since 48 million years before our first human ancestor emerged. Through the millennia of our natural world and the nearly three hundred years of our country, a heritage has been woven between our American ideal of freedom and the one who best embodies it: the wild horse. The Theodore Roosevelt National Park herd offers that same heritage and wonder to the thousands of people who have seen them and whose tourism has local economies just as the herd has enriched the land. As they do not fall under the purview of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act that offers basic protection for wild herds, these horses truly represent the most vulnerable among us.

Through unpredictable political change, it is crucial that their freedom does not become political. By supporting this resolution, you affirm the tenet that Theodore Roosevelt embodied through his words and actions: that no matter the political landscape of now or the future, we all have a duty to hear the spirit of the wild, and to protect our unbridled fellow species for my generation and all those to come.

My sincere gratitude for your solidarity with the future and the wild,  
Josselyn