



April 20, 2023

Colorado Senate
Colorado House of Representatives
Senate Committee Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
House Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources
Re: SB23-275 - Colorado Wild Horse Project

Dear Esteemed Senators and Representatives,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill SB23-275, which we believe represents a forward-thinking and collaborative approach to reducing wild horse roundups in Colorado and addressing the long-term needs of wild horses that have already been removed from the wild.

Collectively the undersigned, representing more than 2 million individuals, share significant expertise, experience, and long-term commitments in the fields of wild horse fertility control, environmental management, wild horse adoption, and sanctuary management in Colorado.

We support the expanded use of proven, scientific, and humane fertility control methods, such as PZP (porcine zona pellucida), in Colorado's wild herds, and believe the increased implementation scale indicated by SB23-275 will have a meaningful and cost-effective impact on reducing wild horse birth rates in the near future.

By way of illustration, the world's largest PZP-based wild horse fertility control operation, in Nevada's Virginia Range, has reported a 61% reduction in foal birth rates, 2020-2022, and a total herd population reduction of 20% over the same period, without the removal of a single wild horse.

Additionally, in Arizona, PZP has been in use since 2019 to manage the Salt River horses and has achieved a below zero population growth rate as of 2021. More locally, in Colorado, PZP has been in use in the Spring Creek Basin HMA since 2012, where the wild horse population has been stabilized and no horses have been removed since 2011.

We are grateful to Colorado's volunteer groups for the foundational role they play in preserving the state's wild horses and believe the additional resources and funding envisaged by SB23-275 will provide necessary scale and support to ensure delivery of shared conservation goals.

We are encouraged by the innovative, multi-stakeholder approach envisaged by SB23-275 and would be very willing to answer any bill-related questions the Committee may have to ensure the operational success of the Wild Horse Project on- and off-range in Colorado.

We applaud the bill's bipartisan sponsors for coming together to care for and protect Colorado's majestic wild horse herds, and urge members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to support the passage of SB23-275.

Yours sincerely,

American Wild Horse Campaign

Animal Welfare Institute

In Defense of Animals

Sierra Club Colorado

For the Love of Aria

Steadfast Steeds

Homes for Horses Coalition

Wild Equid League Colorado