



NATIONAL HORSE & BURRO RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COALITION

*Advocating for commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing horses and burros
to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations*

DATE: 10 February 2017

TO: Dorothea Boothe, Acting Wild Horse and Burro Program Specialist
Division of Wild Horses and Burros
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW, Room 2134 LM
Washington, DC 20240

FROM: National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition

RE: **Call for Nominations for the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board –
Recommendation for Dr. Robert E. Cope as the Natural Resource Management
Representative**

Dear Dorothea Boothe:

The National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition (Coalition) supports the reappointment of Dr. Robert E. Cope to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board.

The Coalition includes more than 18 national organizations, encompassing a wide range of sportsmen, livestock growers, state and local governments, wildlife and land conservation organizations, and professional societies. Collectively, we represent over 10 million Americans and 6,000 local governments. We focus on commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing wild horses and burros to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations. As such, we share a great interest in the appointment of new Advisory Board members.

Dr. Cope's long and diverse professional career amply qualifies him to serve as the Natural Resource Management representative while also providing him with unique insights into all aspects of the issues associated with managing wild horses and burros. In addition to this broad subject-matter expertise, Dr. Cope has shown a professional competency and sincere willingness to find common ground on long-term solutions to potentially controversial issues. His proven collaborative leadership makes him an excellent choice to continue his service on the Advisory Board.

While we recognize that many qualified individuals will be nominated for this important position, Dr. Cope has gained our recommendation for reappointment through his thorough understanding of the complex issues related to managing rangelands for multiple uses and his demonstrated commitment to ensuring healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands. We are confident Dr. Cope will continue to be an excellent contributor to the important work of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board and encourage the agency to consider his reappointment.

Sincerely,

Keith Norris, Associate Wildlife Biologist®
Coalition Co-Chair, Dir. of Gov. Affairs & Partnerships
The Wildlife Society
keith.norris@wildlife.org

Chris Heck
Coalition Co-Chair, Government Affairs Associate
National Assoc. of Conservation Districts
chris-heck@nacdnet.org

American Farm Bureau Federation • American Sheep Industry Association • Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Masters of Foxhounds Association • Mule Deer Foundation • National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Counties • National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Cattlemen's Beef Association • National Rifle Association • National Wildlife Refuge Association
Public Lands Council • Public Lands Foundation • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Safari Club International
Society for Range Management • The Wildlife Society • Wild Sheep Foundation