



## MEMORANDUM

To: AHC Organizations and Members

From: American Horse Council – Action Alert

Re: Preserving Our Equine Heritage On Public Lands Act of 2007 (S.2283)

Date: April, 2007

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, The Preserving Our Equine Heritage On Public Lands Act of 2007 (S.2283) was introduced in the Senate by Senator Mike Crapo and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. S.2283 is intended to protect the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, wilderness areas, national monuments, and other areas that are administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use. The legislation would require that these federal agencies manage these lands to preserve and facilitate the traditional and continued use and access of horses to these areas.

The Preserving Our Equine Heritage On Public Lands Act is important to riders and their continued use of public lands. **If we are to keep federal lands open to riders and pack stock the equine community must let their Senators know this legislation is important to them. It is vital that we generate broad support in the industry and convey that message of support to the Senate.**

If we have any hope of passing this legislation this year, contacts are needed showing the broad support in the riding community and asking Senators to support the bill and to co-sponsor it. **Senator Salazar is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, ask Him to co-sponsor S.2283 and help move the bill through the Committee and to the Senate floor for a final vote.** The more contacts we generate showing Senators that recreational riders' support this bill, the greater the chance of passage.

When contacting Senator Salazar, please fax a personalized copy of the attached letter to him. Faxing the letter is much quicker than mail because of the security process for mail to the Congress. Senator Salazar's fax number is (202) 228-5036.

Also attached are Talking Points in support of the bill in case you speak to your Senator or his/her staff about this legislation.

Thank you for your support and involvement. Please fax us copies of any letters you send to Congress. The AHC fax number is 202-296-1970. Please do not hesitate to contact Ben Pendergrass at (202) 296-4031 if you have any questions.

Date

The Honorable [Insert Senator's Name]  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator [insert name]:

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, The Preserving Our Equine Heritage On Public Lands Act of 2007 (S.2283) was introduced by Senator Mike Crapo.

[We or Your Organization] ask that you support and co-sponsor this legislation in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Millions of Americans enjoy trail riding because of the pleasure, exercise and family-time that it provides. In addition, [please personalize the letter to your state, situation or interests, if you wish.]

The purpose of this legislation is to preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands. The legislation would require that public lands be managed by the various federal agencies to recognize and preserve the continued use of horses, pack and saddle stock on lands where there is an historical tradition of such use. But the legislation would not diminish any Agencies' ability to implement emergency closures or permanent reductions in the use and access of these animals, after complying with the full public review process required by law.

We are concerned that too often public lands and trails are closed and access denied to recreational riders. Some closures are effected without sufficient consideration of the long-standing use of horses and pack animals on these federal lands.

This country was settled by people on horse back. Please preserve this important American heritage by supporting this legislation and passing it in the Senate in this Congress.

If you have any questions about riding in [insert your state], please contact us. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Your Organization and/or Name

## **Talking Points in Support of the Preserving Our Equine Heritage on Public Lands Act of 2007 (S.2283)**

- This legislation is intended to preserve the use and access of horses and pack stock to public lands where there is a historical tradition of such use.
- S. 2283 is crucial to riders and their continued use of public lands.
- Horses have played a critical and historic role in opening and settling our country.
- What may now be perceived by some as recreation was once a vital part of everyday living in the U.S., particularly in the West.
- This bill does not diminish the Secretary of Interior's ability to implement emergency closures or permanent reductions in the use and access of these pack and stock animals, after complying with the full public review process required by law.
- The House of Representatives passed a similar in both the 109<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> Congresses
- The recreational horse industry, which includes recreational riders and pack and saddle stock, has a \$32 billion effect on our economy each year and supports 435,000 jobs nationwide.
- Please support passage of this important legislation