



July 19, 2006

As a member of the American Horse Council, you recognize how important it is to be involved in the legislative process. We need your help in urging your Senator to support Right-to-Ride legislation, which is crucial to riders and their continued use of public lands. We want to keep all federal lands open to riders and pack stock.

The House of Representatives has passed Congressman George Radanovich's "Right-to-Ride" bill (H.R. 586). The bill 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 House-passed bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The Riders and organizations must now turn their attention to the Senate bill (S. 781), which has been introduced by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) and is before that same Committee. It is vital to the passage of this legislation that we generate broad support in the industry and convey that message of support to Senators.

If we have any hope of passing this legislation this year, contacts are urgently needed showing the broad support in the riding community and asking Senators to support the bill and to co-sponsor it. **Since one of your Senators is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, please ask the Senator to 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 your Senator, please fax a copy of the attached letter to him or her. Faxing the letter is much quicker than mail because of the security process for mail to the Congress. Please see the attached sheet to find your Senator's fax number.

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 to the AHC. The AHC fax number is 202-296-1970. Please do not hesitate to contact the AHC at (202) 296-4031 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James J. Hickey, Jr.
President

[Please fax to your Senators.]

SAMPLE

Date

The Honorable [place Senator's name here]
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005 has been passed by the House of Representatives (H.R. 586) and referred to the Senate for action. A companion Senate bill (S. 781) has been introduced by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID). The legislation is now before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

[We or Your Organization] ask that you co-sponsor this legislation and ask for a hearing before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. 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 Agency's 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 or your organization] are concerned that too often public lands and trails are closed and access denied to recreational riders. We are concerned that 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 [your state] please contact us. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Your Organization and/or Name

Talking Points in Support of Ride-to-Ride Bill

(H.R. 586 and S. 781)

- 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.
- Right-to-Ride legislation 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 this bill by voice vote in May 2006; It passed a similar bill in the 108th Congress.
- S. 781, introduced by Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho, was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 14, 2005.
- 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 in the Senate this year.

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Member

Fax

Republicans

Pete V. Domenici (NM), Chairman	202-228-3261
Larry E. Craig (ID)	202-228-1067
Craig Thomas (WY)	202-224-1724
Lamar Alexander (TN)	202-228-3398
Lisa Murkowski (AK)	202-224-5301
Richard Burr (NC)	202-228-2981
Mel Martinez (FL)	202-228-5171
James M. Talent (MO)	202-228-1518
Conrad Burns (MT)	202-224-8594
George Allen (VA)	202-224-5432
Gordon Smith (OR)	202-228-3997
Jim Bunning (KY)	202-228-1373

Democrats

Jeff Bingaman (NM)	202-224-2852
Daniel K. Akaka (HI)	202-224-2126
Byron L. Dorgan (ND)	202-224-1193
Ron Wyden (OR)	202-228-2717
Tim Johnson (SD)	202-228-5765
Mary L. Landrieu (LA)	202-224-9735
Dianne Feinstein (CA)	202-228-3954
Maria Cantwell (WA)	202-228-0514
Ken Salazar (CO)	202-228-5036
Robert Menendez (NJ)	202-228-2197

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