

The header graphic consists of a vertical blue bar on the left side, followed by several horizontal stripes. The stripes alternate in color between light red and white. The text "American Horse Council" is centered over the stripes in a bold, black, serif font. Below it, "Washington Update" is also centered in the same font style.

American Horse Council Washington Update

Radanovich “Right-to-Ride” Bill Passes House

On May 16, the House of Representatives 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.

During the debate on the legislation on the House floor, Congressman Radanovich (R-CA) stated:

“Perhaps no other activity is more synonymous with the exploration of our vast open lands than that of the use of pack and saddle stock. Who could forget those images of President Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir on horseback at what was to become the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks? While some claim that this bill singles out pack and saddle use and affords it greater consideration than other forms of recreation or commercial use, I would argue that pack and saddle use has played a far greater historic role on our public lands, particularly in our western states, than simply recreation. What may be perceived by some today as recreation was once a vital part of everyday living throughout our Nation’s history.”

The industry must now turn its attention to the Senate bill (S. 781), which has been introduced by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID).