

#### DISSENTING VIEWS

I oppose H.R. 249. This legislation needlessly eliminates the sale authority of the Bureau of Land Management and bans the sale or transfer of wild horses and burros for commercial processing, which is already prohibited by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Under current law, BLM is allowed to sell animals that are either more than 10 years old or have been offered unsuccessfully for adoption at least three times. Roughly 2,300 animals have been successfully sold into private care. Selling old animals that have not been adopted is a humane solution. It places animals into private care and lessens the crowding in holding facilities. The proceeds from selling eligible animals are returned to BLM's adoption fund to help with the wild horse and burro adoption program, which lowers the overall cost to taxpayers.

Because the bill groups the sale of wild horses and burros with the ban on slaughter, I oppose it. I do not believe that the two issues should be tied together.

However, I take hope from the Chairman's promise to hold hearings on the issue in exchange for the withdrawal of my amendment. I look forward to working with the Committee to address our mutual concerns.

JEFF FLAKE.

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