

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2012

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

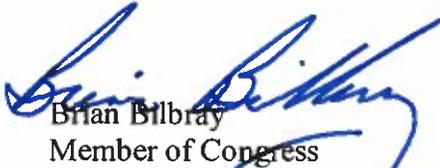
Dear Secretary Salazar:

On June 4, 2012, several media outlets reported the death of seven mules and two horses under the ownership and protection of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The cause of death was from kidney failure due to an apparent faulty water supply system that was not providing the animals with the necessary five to ten gallons of water needed for each horse. I write today to strongly request that you perform an immediate and thorough investigation of the National Park Service.

The National Park Service is charged with conserving and caring for our national parks. The American people entrust them to safeguard nearly 400 parks, while preserving the history and local heritage. Along with preserving this heritage, they are responsible for the animals under their care. The horse is a proud symbol of our American heritage and I am gravely concerned by what appears to be negligent treatment resulting in the unnecessary death of these animals.

Citizens are appalled at something of this nature occurring, and I urge you to conduct an immediate and thorough investigation of this particular incident as well as a full review of the National Park Service's animal welfare regulations and practices. We must uncover how this could happen and what the agency intends to do to guarantee nothing like this happens again. I ask that you provide my office with a response that we may work together to ensure steps are taken to prevent tragedies such as this from happening in the future. If you have any questions please contact me at (202) 225-0508.

Sincerely,



Brian Bilbray
Member of Congress

CC: Jon B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service