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Governor Sandoval

January 13, 2011

Mr. Ken Salazar, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners voted unanimously to express their opposition to the proposal of Mrs. Madeline Pickens to establish a "Sanctuary for Free and Wild Roaming Horses" in northeastern Nevada at their meeting of December 4, 2010. While at the time of our vote a formal detailed proposal was not yet available, the Commission had such strong concerns for the concept being championed by Mrs. Pickens that a vote was taken to send this letter expressing our strong opposition.

If this proposal is allowed to progress it is our recommendation that a full environmental impact statement be required to evaluate the impacts to this high value wildlife area. The area under consideration is a portion of the winter range for the largest mule deer herd in the State of Nevada, and provides important habitat for Greater sage grouse and elk.

On behalf of the Commission, I request that this matter be given the attention it deserves. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Scott Raine
Chairman

