



May 5, 2009

Dear Senator Basnight,

I'm writing to spread awareness of the wild ponies of Corolla and Carova. This breed (officially named Colonial Spanish Mustangs) has been off the coast of North Carolina for over four-hundred years. We can change our wonderful state for the better by adopting this loyal animal as our state horse. We can adopt it as our symbol of survival, knowledge, courage and a test of strength.

When the Spanish searched for safe ground to build new colonies some ships may have hit sandbars and began to sink. To make ships sink slower some of the heavier horses were thrown overboard. The toughest horses made it to shore. This is how the Colonial Spanish Mustang became a true resident of North Carolina.

After the challenges the horses have endured some still think they should be penned! It's important that laws are passed that people are not allowed to touch them or feed them. This will help keep them wild. People say they're taking our space but we are taking theirs. The horses are fighting to stay alive. They are unable to talk we have to help them.

Will your grandkids get to see these horses? Probably not, unless it's made our state horse. That's the purpose of my thoughtful letter. They may become extinct if we don't do something. The lives and sights of the future are in our hands.

Sincerely,



Taryn Breathwaite
Moyock Elementary
4th Grader

May 13, 2009

Senator Marc Basnight
North Carolina Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2007
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808



Dear Senator Basnight:

The reason I'm writing this letter is to ask for your support in naming the Corolla wild horse the state horse of North Carolina. You have probably heard of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund. What you probably haven't heard is that the Corolla wild horse's fate lies in your hands. These horses are endangered and play a huge role in my life. During the summer I go to Corolla to see these horses. I would be crushed if I had noticed they had all disappeared! I remember one summer I saw a horse with only one eye. We're lucky this horse is still alive today. My family and I name lots of the horses so when we come back every summer we know which horse is which.

These animals are not meant to be in captivity. There will not be any more of these stunning, amazing creatures if we don't protect them. It would make thousands of people happy if you named the Corolla wild horse the state horse of North Carolina. Many people enjoy these beautiful animals and would be devastated if they went away. If you make the horse the state horse it will be more protected and more taken care of than now. Please not only accept my idea about the hundreds of other children just like me saying the same thing. The Corolla Wild Horse needs more attention!

Thank you for listening to my idea and caring for this important cause to make the Corolla Wild Horse the State Horse of North Carolina.

Sincerely yours,

Bryce Detterman
Grade 5
Knotts Island Elementary School
Knotts Island, NC



April 21, 2009



Dear Senator Burr,

Can you please name the Corolla Spanish Mustangs our state horse? People that come to the Outer Banks feed the horses food they are not supposed to eat like: apples, carrots and grass. If you make them out state horse the police might make the rules stricter and they want die as often or get sick.

The Spanish Mustangs should belong to all of North Carolina and not just one part of North Carolina. They are the only wild horses in this Eastern United States.

If the horses are our state horse we could make more money because people will put T-shirts of them in gift shops and thing the tourist could spend thousands of dollars in the shops. Then the governor will have a lot of money!

Sincerely,

Hannah Sweeney
4th Grader
Central Elementary





May 5, 2009

Dear Marc Basnight,

I request that you make the Colonial Spanish Mustang breed (Corolla Wild Horse) the North Carolina State horse. I think the Corolla Wild Horse should be the state horse because they are very important to our history. They are very important because they helped build the New World. Other horse breeds could not have lived through that well.

The Colonial Spanish Mustang breed was the first modern horses to come to the New World. They had a tough time getting over here. They were in slings, at the bottom of the boat, and half died on the way over. Many were thrown overboard to avoid shipwrecks. Others went down with the ship. Some drowned, but many swam to shore.

Ashore the horses had to find their own food, drink, and shelter, if there was any. They had to get used to traveling living on their own, and **NOT** being pampered. What better horse breed to be the state horse than the Corolla Wild Horse? They were here before most settlers. They came here from shipwrecks, or people who either gave up, died, or threw them overboard. Spanish settlers said "Next to God, we owed our victory to our horses: I believe that because I'm a strong horse-lover.

I also like money, which the Colonial Spanish Mustang breed brings. They bring tourists, which bring money. The horses should be protected because they absolutely do not live well with people. They get colic from eating the wrong foods and usually hurt themselves trying to get free. I beg you; I implore you to make the Corolla Wild Horse the state horse of North Carolina. It would make me and a lot of other Currituck County 4th graders very, VERY happy.

Sincerely,



Abby Rippin
Dr. W. T. Griggs Elementary
4th Grader



April 7, 2009

Dear Legislators,

I really want the Colonial Spanish Mustang to be named North Carolina's state horse so please take the time to read about this very special horse. For five-hundred years these beautiful creatures were allowed to roam around the Corolla beaches and do whatever they wanted. These horses were some of the first animals brought from Europe. One of the Spanish explorers that brought the horses was Lucan Vasquez de Ayllon. There were a lot of uses the Spaniards had for the Colonial Spanish Mustang, examples were travel, work, and play. After the Spanish explorers brought over the Spanish Mustang the Native Americans started using these wonderful animals.

The Colonial Spanish Mustang is very important to our State's history, and should be protected and allowed to roam free in our state – North Carolina.

We should protect them because they are endangered. There are only two hundred twenty-eight left in the world, and one wants to see these lovely horses to become extinct. They are very friendly horses, and they can live well in our environment. We have the climate that's good for them, and the food that they eat. We should also allow them to roam free because if were a wild horse we would want to go wherever we please so let's do the same for them.

The attractive Colonial Spanish Mustang should be North Carolina's state horse for tons of reasons. It is significant to North Carolina's history; it was one of the first animals brought from Europe to our country. There are also twelve states in the United States that have a state horse, why not North Carolina? So please take the time to think about naming the Colonial Spanish Mustang North Carolina's state horse.

Sincerely,



Ashleigh Addison
Jarvisburg Elementary
4th Grader