

May 8, 2009



Dear Senator Basnight,

There is this beautiful creature that walks the earth with its long silky mane and graceful walk. This animal just might be one of the most extravagant beings to gallop along the beaches. I'm lucky enough to say I live near them. I slip on my sneakers and go for a run on a warm Sunday afternoon. Somehow the sand still finds a way to creep into the opening between my toes. I bend over to dig the sand out of my shoes and I hear this "chomp, chomp" noise; it's the horses. People for miles come to see these creatures; the wild mustangs of Corolla beach from the state of North Carolina. The wild horses of the Currituck, Outer Banks have survived nearly 500 years of the fierce hurricanes and winds. They are truly amazing living thing, they represent the beach. These horses should be protected. Did you know that in the last two years three horses have been killed over some of the most ridiculous things? Such as drunken people with guns with nothing better to do, and tourists not paying attention to where they were going in their cars. Please keep reading to find out more and why these animals should be made our state horse.

I bet you're asking me why I'm trying to convince you to make these wild horses the state horse. Well here are some good reasons. They are truly representative of the Outer Banks. Spirit-untamed and rugged-and are integral part of what draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to the northern beaches every year. No where else can you see wild Mustangs walking along the beach, rolling around in the sand trying to get the flies off their back on a hot summer day, and grazing among beaches homes. As the Currituck area is becoming more developed, the wild horses are being forces into smaller areas where thy can roam free. There are about 100 wild horses left. They don't need the whole Outer Banks, but they do need a little more than a couple of acres of the beach. Around the 1920s, there were 4,000-5,000 horses in Corolla. Now, most of them are gone, it just doesn't seem right.

I care too much about these horses to explain in words but there are too precious to become extinct. I bet most people don't understand why I care so much, and why others care so much to. After these horses are gone, there is nothing left but their memories. You won't see them in the history book. People won't write about them. You won't see them walking along the beaches.

Once you read this, I hope you understand the love I have for these animals. There is only a small amount of horses left on the beach, and they need to be kept safe. So others can see them and will be able and talk and say I saw the wild mustangs, make this creature our state horse. Please help me in my fight to save them. For all the tourists and for the children, we have to save them. So my children and maybe their children can see them. If you feel the same way we should work together to help save them. With all the majestic wild mustangs roaming the beaches of Corolla, they're just too sacred to leave this earth. Make the Wild Mustangs NC's state horse.

Thanks,

Jade Robinson  
Moyock Middle School  
7<sup>th</sup> Grader

April 1, 2009



Dear Senator Basnight,

I am a student at Moyock Middle School and I'm expressing concern for what I consider to be the most majestic animal there is, the Corolla Wild Horse. These horses are true survivors, lasting for hundreds of years, battling the cold winters and sweltering summers. Not to mention the threats that humans possess on their fragile herds. Why are these herds fragile? Because there are only about 120 of the wild mustangs left and if we don't do something soon, these numbers will gradually fall, and a valuable part of North Carolina history will be lost forever.

To help preserve these horses, who have been here for longer than we have, we need to make them recognizable to all, by making them our state horse. IF they are given the title of North Carolina's state horse, more people will see them as a historic part of North Carolina, not just wild horses that eat your lawn in the morning. People who don't know any better and hurt the horses will finally see they are important to the culture and history of North Carolina. Not to mention the fact that 11 other states in the United States have state horses, why shouldn't we have one? Having the wild horses as our state horse will let people here and around the country know how special they are, and it will help preserve them, because we all want these fascinating creatures to be around as long as they can.

I'm sure if the horses could talk, they'd be telling you the same thing. They want us to help them because they can't help themselves. They don't have guns or big trucks to run away in when they get scared, they have to stay right where they are. So let's let the people of North Carolina and the wild horses be heard. We need to make these mustangs our state horse. They need to be noticed and respected by everyone so we and many generations to come can enjoy the magnificent beauty of the Corolla Wild Horses.

Sincerely,

Marisa Breathwaite

May 5, 2009



Dear Senator Basnight,

Off the busy highway, way down past Duck and the Currituck Lighthouse lays a world seemingly untouched by modern civilization. The sea oats wave gently in the breeze, and the sand shifts with each breath of wind. As the ocean waves crash onto the beach, a herd of wild horses appear around the side of a dune. It appears that everything on the beaches of Corolla is and has been at peace for the past 500 years. But without protection, it is not to be.

Let me paint the picture: As the horses round the sand dune, dropping their heads to graze on vegetation, four-wheeler speeds by, spewing sand into the eyes of the horses. The frightened horses flee, running blindly over the dunes. In the turmoil, a young foal gets separated from its herd. Nickered pitifully, it wanders the dunes alone. After a while, it reaches the side of a road. It hesitates a minute, then dashes out into the road right as car comes around the bend-need I continue? Each year, many Corolla wild horses are hit by cars, shot, or poisoned by eating unnatural foods, which are usually fed to them by humans. What's really sad about this is that, as you know, these horses have lived in the Corolla area for hundreds of years. We can't continue to let them die. The Corolla wild horses need protection, and they need it fast.

The Corolla wild horses are an important part of North Carolina's heritage. Ever since the 1500s, when the Spanish Mustangs arrived on North Carolina shores, these horses have thrived on our beaches, chomping on dune vegetation and acorns. For hundreds of years they have lived in the Corolla area, braving the elements. They have survived so many traumatic events-we can't let them die out because of **US!**

The Corolla wild horses need more protection, and the only way they will get that protection is if these Spanish Mustangs are made an official symbol of N.C.- the state horse. Senator, please listen to this letter and other letters that you may receive. The Corolla wild horses need **your** help to remain thriving. If you don't make the Spanish Mustang our state horse, they, like my letter, will come to an end. Please help.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Mullins  
7<sup>th</sup> grader  
Moyock Middle School