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Good Morning Chairman Arberry and Members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

My name is Arlene Sillings; I live in Dayton, Nevada. I am representing myself as an individual with concerns for the preservation of the wild horses in the State of Nevada.

I oppose Assembly Bill No. 474 which would change the authority for distributing funds from the principal from the Leo Heil Trust Fund. My testimony is as follows:

Who decided that the funds from Leo Heil's Will couldn't be spent to preserve Nevada's own wild horses? Mr. Heil clearly directed that the residue of his estate preserve "Nevada's wild horses" yet none of the money is available to the state's own groups and projects. It's all being spent to support a Federal program that is already well financed. It is arguable that since 1972 the State has spent literally hundreds of thousands of dollars of Leo Heil's estate yet has not done anything to materially preserve Nevada's wild horses.

Furthermore, Leo Heil clearly did not give the money to the Federal government to use for its program. When Mr. Heil wrote his will the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act had already been enacted. The Federal horses already had legal protection and preservation status. Mr. Heil left the money to the State yet for some perplexing reason someone decided to use the money instead to benefit a Federal agency's program.

While my position would not be to exclude wild horses found on Federal lands from benefiting from the Heil Trust, I do argue that excluding state horses poses an unreasonable burden on Nevada's non-profit horse groups as well as the Nevada Department of Agriculture, and it is certainly not in keeping with the specifications of Leo Heil's Will.

If the Nevada Legislature is considering any changes to the operations of the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, it first needs to ensure that the Commission is compliant with Leo Heil's Will, and next needs to ensure that the funds from Mr. Heil's estate are properly accounted for.

Please consider my testimony and the testimony of others in opposition of Assembly Bill No. 474 when making your decision on its passage.

Thank you Chairman Arberry and Committee Members for allowing me to testify on this very important Bill.

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 4/15/03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT K

SUBMITTED BY: ARLENE SILLINGS