

April 19, 2005

Senator Conrad Burns
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burns,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Beartooth Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Montana, to request your support of Senator Mike Crapo's recently introduced "Right To Ride" bill (S. 781). This bill is intended to preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock on public lands administered by the federal government where there is a historical tradition of such use.

Montana horsemen are becoming increasingly frustrated and concerned over the reduction of trails available to them for riding activities that many of them helped establish and have worked to maintain. With so much of our land in the hands of the federal government, we need to ensure that our local public land managers will preserve access to these lands which are so vital to the quality of life in Montana.

We watched you ride in the Presidential Inaugural Parade and were proud that you demonstrated the traditional close relationship of Montanans and their horses. We urge you to help preserve that tradition by cosponsoring the "Right To Ride" bill and actively supporting its passage by the Senate.

Sincerely,

Dave Schilz
President, BBCH