

The Honorable Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senators \_\_\_\_\_  
The U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_ and  
Senators \_\_\_\_\_:

Please accept my gratitude if you are already a cosponsor of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503/S. 311). If not, I respectfully ask you to shield America's horses from slaughter with your endorsement of this critical legislation.

Americans overwhelmingly disapprove of the annual slaughter of some 100,000 horses for overseas consumption. I am among the majority of U.S. voters who want elected officials to grant horses immunity from butchers now. Please advocate passage of H.R. 503/S. 311 so this bill is finally signed into law.

In fact, there is little "industry" left to sustain. On January 19, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit pronounced horse slaughter illegal in Texas, home to two of only three foreign-owned equine plants. On March 28, 2007, U.S. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled horse slaughter in America in violation of federal law. She claimed the USDA failed to uphold the National Environmental Policy Act by neglecting to assess the environmental impact of its decision to permit horse slaughter.

Judge Kollar-Kotelly's edict essentially freezes America's last horse slaughterhouse, Cavel International in DeKalb, IL. A federal ban is imperative to halt the export of our horses to Mexico or Canada for slaughter.

Horse slaughter is profoundly inhumane. Discarded show horses, racehorses, Premarin industry foals, wild horses, carriage horses, and family companions are shipped from auction to slaughter inside double-deck livestock trucks built for smaller animals. Deprived of food, water or rest, most arrive weak, dehydrated and injured after treks that last up to 30 hours.

At the processing plant horses are herded into holding pens, where they subsist amid the inescapable stench of blood and death. On the killing floor, workers fire metal shunts into their brains. The captive bolt pistols (crafted for cows, sheep and pigs) are rarely forceful enough to stun these long-necked animals. Dangling by a shackled rear leg, some regain consciousness as their throats are slit and their bodies dismembered.

Please cosponsor the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. It is time to permanently ban the export and slaying of our horses for diners in Italy, France, Belgium, and Japan.

Thank you,