

2009 SENATE AGRICULTURE

SCR 4021

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No.4021

Senate Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 12, 2009

Recorder Job Number:

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Sen. Flakoll opened the hearing on SCR 4021, a resolution urging congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States. All members (7) were present.

Sen. Miller, district 16, testified in favor of the resolution. See attached testimony attachments #1,2,3,4 and 5.

Sen. Heckaman- I would just like to comment on a document that Sen. Miller handed out. I went to NCSL in December and I attended the AG subcommittee that worked on the concurrent resolution to congress and I was there during the time that they testified and presented information on this and it is very horrific to see the devastation that is happening to these animals so I listened to the vote on this and it wasn't unanimous of course but they did develop a nice resolution to send to congress and that is why they are encouraging the states to do likewise.

Sen. Wanzek- just reading some of the testimony the claim that the abandonment and stuff of horses is overstated and that we don't read about this in the media, but didn't we recently read something in the media?

Sen. Miller- I think you are reading about it in the media and it is happening all over and a lot of it is happening in rural areas that have no media.

Sen. Flakoll- do you know how many horses there may be in ND or in the United States?

Sen. Miller- no I am not sure.

Sen. Klein- do you have any idea when the Texas and Illinois facilities were open they had a regular slaughterhouse, do you have any numbers on how many they were slaughtering?

Sen. Miller- I think when they were in capacity they were slaughtering 300,000 horses and now we are exporting close to 100,000 horses over our borders to Canada and Mexico.

Julie Ellingson, ND stockmen's association, testified in favor of the resolution. See attached testimony attachment #6.

Sen. Wanzek- some of the negative testimony that we are hearing indicates that we have never eaten horses and I don't know if I believe that, are you aware of the history on that?

Julie Ellingson- I have never eaten horse meat but that doesn't mean doesn't happen, there are other cultures that prefer horse meat. I understand that it is popular in Europe and other places and provides as a protein source.

Patrick Becker, district 31, testified in favor of the resolution.

Patrick Becker- I support this I have had someone drop off their horse's on my property and abandoned them so this is a serious and growing problem that needs to be taken care of.

Kim Moen, Economic development director and city auditor in Harvey, testified in favor of the resolution.

Kim Moen- I rise in support of this bill too and as well as economic development for ND there are plenty other states already getting on board and supporting horse slaughter and I think that ND has a really good opportunity to get a head of it and move forward with some economic

possibilities. Also, in our community we are working with a place to open a dog food facility and having horse products and by products available to us near us would be beneficial.

Sen. Miller- how many jobs do you feel that you could create in Harvey if you opened a facility like this?

Kim Moen- I would say around 20 jobs for that.

James Schmidt, farmer and rancher SE of Bismarck, testified in support of the resolution.

James Schmidt- I have actually slaughtered a horse and eaten it. We are an agriculture state, if we are going to pay and support dollars to feed these horses in feed lots somewhere and let them die, why don't we as an agriculture state see the point of tax payers paying for a slaughter facility that will create jobs and economics verses paying a tax to feed these animals and watch them die.

Sen. Flakoll called **Dr. James Clement**, veterinarian, to the podium.

Sen. Flakoll- how much does it cost to sterilize a female horse?

Dr. James Clement- it is expensive, around \$350 I believe.

Sen. Taylor- and I believe that in my research there are around 35,000 horses in ND do you know how many nationally?

Dr. James Clement- I think nationally it is around 5 million.

Testimony was also submitted in opposition to the resolution. See attached, **Diane Knutson** attachment #7. **Kathryn & Jon Webers**, attachment #8.

Sen. Miller motioned to move amendments (attachment #5) and was seconded by **Sen.**

Wanzek, vote 7 yea 0 nay 0 absent. **Sen. Miller** motioned for a Do pass as amended and was seconded by **Sen. Taylor**, vote 7 yea 0 nay 0 absent. **Sen. Miller** was designated to carry the

bill to the floor.

Sen. Flakoll closed the hearing.

Date:

Roll Call Vote #:

402

Agriculture

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Motion Made By

Seconded By

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 7 No

Absent

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4021

Senate Agriculture

Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Motion Made By

Seconded By

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 7 No 0
Absent 0

Absent

Floor Assignment Sen. Miller

If the vote is on an amendment, list:

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4021: Agriculture Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4021 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, after line 10, insert:

"WHEREAS, the abandonment of horses on public lands may negatively impact herds of wild horses including the introduction of congenital defects and diseases; and"

Renumber accordingly

2009 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SCR 4021

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4021

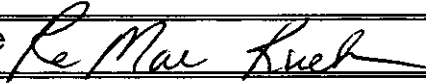
House Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 5, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10233

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Senator Miller, Sponsor: This resolution is aimed at addressing the pressure by Congress to completely outlaw horse slaughter in America and stop the transportation of horses across international and state borders. **(Written testimony attached #1)**

(Petition attached #2) Here are approximately 200 names in support of this resolution. Most are from the Litchville-Montpelier area. I think it is impressive to get that many names in such a small area in support of this resolution.

(Refer to page 2 of #1) This is Proposition 2 which shut down the Ag. industry in California. We can't allow someone's lifestyle choice dictate to everyone else in the country. We produce the world's food in North Dakota. There are also pages included from the National Council of State Legislators. This resolution is part of a nationwide effort to send a unified message to Washington that we are serious about horse processing. It is now hundreds of thousands of unwanted horses, not just a few.

Representative Froelich: I support this resolution.

Julie Ellingson, ND Stockmen's Assn.: **(Written testimony attached #3)**

Representative Mueller: One of the issues in Washington is their pull back of inspection. Would we be well served to include that some place?

Julie Ellingson: To add the verbiage, "to ask for funding for meat inspection"?

We would support that.

Allen Lund, Independent Beef Assn. of North Dakota: We have policy stating that we oppose any legislation or regulation to prohibit the humane harvest of equines. We are in support of this resolution. One reason the slaughterhouses shut down, was the funding for Federal Inspectors was pulled. In the last Farm Bill there was a bill passed pertaining to interstate shipment of state inspected meat and I think this could fall into place on this inspected horse meat.

Opposing: None

Chairman Johnson: Closed the hearing.

Representative Kingsbury: Moved Do Pass and place on the Consent Calendar.

Representative Schatz: Seconded.

Representative Rust: I'm interested in Representative Mueller's comment. What did you think was helpful to add?

Representative Mueller: The Federal Government didn't shut down horse slaughter. What they did is make it difficult to do horse slaughter including pulling Federal Inspection of those horse slaughter plants. We might include "Federal Inspection" in that request.

Representative Boe: Let's wait and get an amendment to address this.

Representative Mueller: Moved the amendment. On line 17 recognize the need for "federal inspection and regulation of."

Representative Rust: Seconded the amendment.

Representative Boe: Does Federal inspection mean USDA?

Chairman Johnson: Replace "Federal" with "USDA."

Voice Vote taken on amendment. Passed.

Representative Kingsbury: Moved Do Pass and place on the Consent Calendar as amended.

Representative Schatz: Seconded.

A Roll Call vote was taken. **Yes: 12, No: 0, Absent: 1**, (Representative Froelich).

Representative Boe will carry the bill.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4021

House Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 12, 2009 (**Committee Work**)

Recorder Job Number: 10849

Committee Clerk Signature

R. Mae Kueh

Minutes:

The House Agriculture Committee discussed reconsidering the amendment made on March 5, 2009. It was decided to allow the motion and amendment to remain as passed on March 5.

VR
3/12/09

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4021

Page 1, line 1, replace "regulated" with "United States Department of Agriculture inspection and regulation of"

Page 1, line 18, replace "regulated" with "United States Department of Agriculture inspection and regulation of"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/5/07

Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4031

House Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 93093.0201

Action Taken ☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Mueller Seconded By Rep. Rust

[illegible]

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Bill Carrier

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Add "inspection."

Date: 3/5/09

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4021

House Agriculture Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 93093.0201

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☒ Amended

Motion Made By Rep. Kingsbury Seconded By Rep. Schatz

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Dennis Johnson, Chair	✓		Tracy Boe	✓	
Mike Brandenburg, Vice Chair	✓		Rod Froelich	AB	
Wesley R. Belter	✓		Richard Holman	✓	
Joyce M. Kingsbury	✓		Phillip Mueller	✓	
David S. Rust	✓		Benjamin A. Vig	✓	
Mike Schatz	✓				
Gerry Uglem	✓				
John D. Wall	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 1

Bill Carrier Rep. Boe

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Consent Calendar

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4021, as engrossed: Agriculture Committee (Rep. D. Johnson, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS,
1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SCR 4021 was placed on the Sixth order
on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace "regulated" with "United States Department of Agriculture inspection
and regulation of"

Page 1, line 18, replace "regulated" with "United States Department of Agriculture inspection
and regulation of"

Renumber accordingly

2009 TESTIMONY

SCR 4021

Testimony before the Senate Agriculture Committee on

4021 Resolution to Congress on Equine Processing

Senator Joe Miller
Park River - District 16

*Same
given on
3/9/09
to House*

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am Senator Joe Miller of District 16, Park River, North Dakota.

As you know, Rep. Rod Froelich and I have introduced a House Bill 1496 in an effort to respond to the growing need for a processing facility for horses in the United States. At the House Agriculture hearing on 1496, there were several ranchers and veterinarians present to express their need for such a facility.

This resolution is aimed at addressing another component to the problem and that is pressure by Congress to completely outlaw horse slaughter in America and to stop the transportation of Horses across international and state borders. I believe that we need to send a message to Congress that this problem is growing and at the very least Washington should not make it worse.

National animal rights groups are tirelessly working to not only stop the Horse industry, but also end animal agriculture in general. Recently a proposition passed in California that was pushed by animal rights groups will likely result in the shut down and exit of the Egg production industry in that state.

Mr. Chairman, this resolution will send the message to Washington that North Dakota believes in animal agriculture, North Dakota stands up for its industry and North Dakota will not be dictated to by out-of-state interests. We cannot allow emotions to ruin an industry and a way of life for hundreds of North Dakotans.

Mr. Chairman, I ask this committee to consider this and support Animal Agriculture. Thank you.

Idaho News

Dead horses found dumped with brands cut off

05:21 PM MST on Thursday, February 5, 2009

KTVB.COM



Horse owners can't afford to feed them

BOISE - Someone is leaving domestic horses on public land, without a way for the animals to eat or survive.

The latest case involved 15 dead horses dumped on Bureau of Land Management property in Gem County in the past few weeks. BLM officials say the animals were found dead about six miles southwest of Emmett near County Line Road. The animals were found with the brand cut off the carcasses so their owner could not be identified.

Overall, the BLM says 32 horses have been left dead or let loose on public land across southwestern Idaho recently. A BLM law enforcement ranger speculated that increasing hay prices and decreased demand for horses have left owners unable to pay to feed the horses, and unable to sell them - so instead they are illegally releasing them on public land.

"It's kind of a hard time for some individuals... with the price of hay even though it's starting to go down," BLM Law Enforcement Ranger Lee Kliman said. "The economic times are harder, it's hard to sell horses, it's hard for a lot of individuals to find homes for horses."

The horses are domesticated and cannot fend for themselves in the wild.

Anyone found responsible could be charged on the federal level with unlawful commercial dumping, and on the state level with dumping of horses. The charges come with a \$100,000 fine.

In the Gem County case, the Bureau of Land Management is working with the Gem County Sheriff's Office to determine who is responsible for the illegal dumping.

-With NewsChannel 7's Ysabel Bilbao



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2009 Horse Legislation
 February 11, 2009

Compiled by Scott Hendrick

The following bills address horse transportation or horse slaughter.

Arkansas

AR HCR
1004

AUTHOR: Ragland (R)
TITLE: Horse Processing Facilities
INTRODUCED: 01/22/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee

SUMMARY:

Requests the state congressional delegation and the Congress of the United States to support horse processing facilities.

STATUS:

01/29/2009 Passed HOUSE. *****To SENATE.
 01/29/2009 To SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Arizona

AZ SCM
1001

AUTHOR: Pierce (R)
TITLE: Equine Resources
INTRODUCED: 01/29/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: SENATE

SUMMARY:

Urges the United States Congress to oppose federal legislation relating to the transporting excess equine resources; relates to the ban on exporting horses for processing.

STATUS:

01/29/2009 INTRODUCED.

Colorado

CO S 151

SPONSOR: Isgar (D)
TITLE: Sunset Licensing Livestock Slaughterers
INTRODUCED: 01/27/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: SENATE
SUMMARY:

(Drafting Note: This bill includes some statutory sections that have been relocated and renumbered, either without change or with amendments. Existing material that has been relocated is printed in lower-case type, with any amendments indicated by capital letters and stricken type. Former section numbers are supplied in brackets for comparison purposes.) Allows the licensing of slaughterers of livestock through the department of agriculture.

STATUS:

02/05/2009 From SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES: Reported favorably with amendment.
02/05/2009 In SENATE. To second reading.

Connecticut

CT H 6083

INTRODUCER: Kehoe (D)
TITLE: Equestrians In the 2009 Connecticut Bicycle Plan
INTRODUCED: 01/26/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Joint Committee on Transportation
SUMMARY:

Includes equestrians and their horses in the 2009 Connecticut state-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan; recognizes and preserve equestrians as both an historic and legitimate user group on existing and new public land trails and greenways.

STATUS:

01/26/2009 INTRODUCED.
01/26/2009 To JOINT Committee on TRANSPORTATION.

Illinois

IL H 583

SPONSOR: Sacia (R)
TITLE: Illinois Horse Meat Act
INTRODUCED: 02/05/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: House Rules Committee
SUMMARY:

Amends the Illinois Horse Meat Act. Restores language that exempted certain types of horse meat from regulation under the Act. Repeals a provision that prohibits the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Amends the Animals Intended for Food Act. Expands the definition of "animal" to include "horses, mules, or other equidae". Amends the Illinois Equine Infectious Anemia Control Act. Allows equidae more than 12 months of age to enter the State.

STATUS:

02/06/2009 To HOUSE Committee on RULES.

IL H 678

SPONSOR: Osmond (R)
TITLE: Humane Care for Animals Act
INTRODUCED: 02/05/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: House Rules Committee
SUMMARY:

Amends the Humane Care for Animals Act. Prohibits a person from transporting, or causing or allowing to be transported, any equine animal in or upon a trailer, conveyance, or any other vehicle with 2 or more levels stacked upon one another. Creates penalties for violations.

STATUS:

02/06/2009 To HOUSE Committee on RULES.

Minnesota

MN S 133

AUTHOR: Dille (R)
TITLE: Horse Processing and Transportation
INTRODUCED: 01/22/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate Agriculture and Veterans Committee
SUMMARY:

Memorializes Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a states ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

STATUS:

01/22/2009 INTRODUCED.
01/22/2009 To SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS.

Missouri

MO SCR 8

SPONSOR: Shoemyer (D)
TITLE: Horse Processing
INTRODUCED: 01/15/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee
SUMMARY:

Urges the U.S. Congress to support the continuation of horse processing in the United States.

STATUS:

01/20/2009 To SENATE Committee on RULES, JOINT RULES, RESOLUTIONS AND ETHICS.

MO HCR 19

SPONSOR: Wright B (R)
TITLE: Horse Processing
INTRODUCED: 01/28/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: HOUSE
SUMMARY:

Urges Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

STATUS:

01/28/2009 INTRODUCED.

Montana

MT D 1801 **AUTHOR:** Office of Perry
TITLE: Horse Transportation Planning
PREFILED: 12/05/2008
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Draft
SUMMARY:
Encourages consideration of horse transportation planning.
STATUS:
01/22/2009 Draft delivered to Requester.

MT SJR 17 **AUTHOR:** Perry (R)
TITLE: Horse Transportation Planning
INTRODUCED: 01/26/2009
LAST AMEND: 02/09/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: SENATE
SUMMARY:
Encourages consideration of horse transportation planning.
STATUS:
02/09/2009 Amended on SENATE floor.

MT D 1907 **AUTHOR:** Butcher (R)
TITLE: Livestock
PREFILED: 12/22/2008
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Draft
SUMMARY:
Authorizes investor owned livestock slaughter and processing plants.
STATUS:
01/31/2009 Draft delivered to Requester.

MT H 418 **AUTHOR:** Butcher (R)
TITLE: Livestock Slaughter and Processing Plants
INTRODUCED: 02/02/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: House Agriculture Committee
SUMMARY:
Authorizes investor owned livestock slaughter and processing plants.
STATUS:
02/02/2009 INTRODUCED.
02/02/2009 Filed as Draft 1907.
02/02/2009 To HOUSE Committee on AGRICULTURE.

North Dakota

ND SCR **AUTHOR:** Miller (R)
4021 **TITLE:** Regulated Horse Processing Facilities
INTRODUCED: 01/30/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate Agriculture Committee
SUMMARY:
Urges Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States.
STATUS:
01/30/2009 INTRODUCED.
01/30/2009 To SENATE Committee on AGRICULTURE.

ND H 1491 **AUTHOR:** Johnson D (R)
TITLE: Brand Law Penalty Imposition
INTRODUCED: 01/19/2009
LAST AMEND: 02/10/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: HOUSE
SUMMARY:
Relates to penalties imposed for violation of brand laws. Allows for the transport of cattle, horses, or mules that have not had an official brand inspection to an auction market that is located in a bordering state and which has been designated by rule as an official brand inspection market.
STATUS:
02/10/2009 Committee amendment adopted on HOUSE floor.

ND H 1496 **AUTHOR:** Froelich (D)
TITLE: Equine Processing Facility Study
INTRODUCED: 01/19/2009
LAST AMEND: 02/10/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: House Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:
Provides for the Department of Commerce to conduct an equine processing facility feasibility study.
STATUS:
02/10/2009 Committee amendment adopted on HOUSE floor.
02/10/2009 Rereferred to HOUSE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS.

New Jersey

NJ A 551 **SPONSOR:** Dancer (R)
TITLE: Horseflesh For Human Consumption
INTRODUCED: 01/08/2008
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
SUMMARY:
Prohibits slaughter of horses and sale of horseflesh for human consumption.
STATUS:
01/08/2008 INTRODUCED.
01/08/2008 To ASSEMBLY Committee on AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

NJ A 2005 **SPONSOR:** Fisher (D)
COSPONSOR(S): Burzichelli (D)
TITLE: Equine Animals Activities
INTRODUCED: 01/28/2008
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
SUMMARY:
Concerns responsibilities and liabilities of individuals involved in equine animals activities.
STATUS:
01/28/2008 INTRODUCED.
01/28/2008 To ASSEMBLY Committee on AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

New York

NY A 3736

SPONSOR: Glick (D)
TITLE: Horse Slaughter For Human Consumption
INTRODUCED: 01/28/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Assembly Agriculture Committee
SUMMARY:

Prohibits any person from slaughtering a horse where such person knows or has reason to know that such horse will be used for human consumption; and prohibits any person from selling, bartering, giving away, purchasing, possessing, transporting, delivering or receiving horseflesh where such person knows or should know that such horseflesh is intended for human consumption; and provides penalties for violation.

STATUS:

01/28/2009 INTRODUCED.
01/28/2009 To ASSEMBLY Committee on AGRICULTURE.

South Dakota

SD S 114

AUTHOR: Kloucek (D)
TITLE: Equine Processing Facility
INTRODUCED: 01/28/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee
SUMMARY:

Provides for a study of the feasibility of establishing an equine processing facility to be located on state, tribal or private lands in the state and to make an appropriation therefor.

STATUS:

02/05/2009 In SENATE Committee on APPROPRIATIONS: Deferred to the 41st Legislative Day.

SD SCR 2

AUTHOR: Kloucek (D)
TITLE: Horse Slaughter Inspection
INTRODUCED: 02/02/2009
ADOPTED: 02/05/2009
DISPOSITION: Adopted
LOCATION: Adopted
SUMMARY:

Urges the reinstatement and funding of a federal inspection program governing horse slaughter and euthanasia facilities.

STATUS:

02/05/2009 Passed HOUSE.

Utah

UT HJR 7

AUTHOR: Winn (R)
TITLE: Equine Resources Joint Resolution
INTRODUCED: 01/26/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: SENATE
SUMMARY:

This resolution: urges the United States Congress to oppose federal legislation that would interfere with a state's authority to direct the transport or processing of horses; special Clauses: None.

STATUS:

02/09/2009 From SENATE Committee on NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIROMENT: Reported favorably.

Wyoming
WY HJR 8

AUTHOR: Wallis (R)
TITLE: Equine Resources
INTRODUCED: 01/16/2009
DISPOSITION: Pending
LOCATION: SENATE

SUMMARY:

Urges Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

STATUS:

02/10/2009

Passed HOUSE. *****To SENATE.



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Testimony before the House Agriculture Committee on

1496 Economic Study of Equine Processing

Senator Joe Miller

Park River - District 16

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I am Senator Joe Miller of District 16, Park River, North Dakota. I certainly am glad to be here this morning to be a part of shouldering this effort to stand up for agriculture, particularly animal agriculture.

It seems, Mr. Chairman, that in our society today we see a continued disconnect between rural and urban, and between city and farm. Those in the equine industry are deeply compassionate and devoted people. It's these people that know the industry and know that the overall health of the industry is dependent on a slaughter market to provide a floor price for their product.

In the packet of information I have handed out to you I provided testimonies from constituents of mine that are breeders. I also have provided other information to paint a picture of the urgency of the situation. I will walk through some of these pieces later on.

The real question today is why do we need a study on this issue?

It is important that we acknowledge the challenges and regulations involved in an equine processing facility. Over the past few years, there have been many efforts at the federal level to stop this industry cold. Currently we have HB 503 and HB 305 in Congress that ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption and ban the transportation of horses for the purpose of slaughter, respectively. It's these federal issues that concern those in the industry, and it's this reason that we need this study.

It is my belief that the Commerce Department has the capacity and the ability to examine the challenges of building a slaughter facility in North Dakota. It's no doubt that the rural nature of our state has its advantages to such a facility, but North Dakota's proximity to markets creates the real challenge. The purpose of this bill will be to help plan out a cost effective path that leads to an equine processing facility.

The immense cost of creating a humane plant that is capable of turning a profit can deter potential investors, but add to that a minority of persons that are hell bent on stopping the industry simply because of an emotional attachment can make it financially unworkable. Mr. Chairman, the industry needs our help.


It is Rep. Froelich and my vision that the Commerce Department will be able to put together the package for the prospective processor. We have no intention of giving free handouts, but utilizing existing loan programs, laws and the horse producers in the state to create a foundation and move forward from there.

This isn't as simple as a college graduate study. There are complex laws and politics involved. This will take money, this will take effort, and this will take the commitment state. We need to show that we are resolved in helping preserve the right of animal agriculture in North Dakota.

Why is this so important and so urgent of a problem? Even the Animal Welfare Institute and other anti-slaughter groups acknowledge there is a problem with unwanted horses. This problem has greatly escalated since the closure of the plants in Chicago and Texas. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 unwanted horses in the U.S.

It is becoming financially impossible for some to maintain their horses. Recently, we have seen the consequence of no market on the pages of North Dakota newspapers. On a farm near Edgeley, thirty-five horses were seized due to malnutrition. This may or may not be directly related, but it is no secret that these instances will increase without any market or ability cull herds.

I have also heard of instances of all around the country and even in North Dakota of people releasing horses into the wild or leaving them at sales barns after not



being able to sell them. There have been efforts use rescue or retirement facilities, but there is a tremendous cost involved and one must still deal with the issue of capacity and health of the horse.

Mr. Chairman, I do fully believe that providing a humane manner of slaughter will be in the best interests of the horse and horse owner. This bill provides an option for a new badly needed industry in North Dakota that will allow for the continuation of the rich heritage of the family-owned ranch, and provide jobs and growth for rural America.

Thank you and I would gladly take any questions.



For Immediate Release

ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE ESTABLISHES ABANDONED HORSE REWARD FUND

Washington, DC (January 29, 2009) – The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) announced today the establishment of the "Animal Welfare Institute Abandoned Horse Reward Fund." Under the program, individuals providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who abandons a horse in violation of state law will be rewarded with up to \$1,000 by AWI. "We've heard time and time again from those defending horse slaughter that our fight to end this cruel practice has led to an increase in abandoned horses. The truth is that the number of American horses going to slaughter now is the same or higher than before the domestic plants closed under state law. In fact, killer buyers seem to be buying more horses than when the plants were open," said Chris Heyde, AWI's Deputy Director of Government and Legal Affairs.

Under the program, individuals with evidence should first contact their local police department, provide as many details as possible about the horse abandonment situation and let the department know about the Animal Welfare Institute Abandoned Horse Reward Fund. In such cases, eligibility for rewards and specific reward amounts will be determined by AWI. For complete terms and conditions of this reward fund, please go to www.awionline.org.

"If horses are being neglected or abandoned and the law is being violated, individuals need to be held accountable. Caring for a horse or any animal is a lifelong responsibility and not something you toss aside when inconvenient. We hope our reward fund will assist in bringing criminals to justice," said Chris Heyde.

The Animal Welfare Institute has been at the forefront of efforts to pass a federal law to end horse slaughter. While the few remaining horse slaughter plants operating in the US were shut down in 2007 under state law, the absence of a federal law means that American horses are still at risk of being slaughtered for human consumption, and more than 100,000 horses were exported to Mexico and Canada in 2008 for that purpose. In Canada, horses are often shot to death while in Mexico some plants still use the "puntilla" knife to stab the horse into a state of paralysis prior to being slaughtered while still fully conscious. The meat is then sold to high-end consumers in Europe and Asia. Congress is currently considering the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (H.R. 503), which will protect American horses from this brutal trade.

##30##

From Animal Welfare Institute

http://www.awionline.org/news/2009/report_animal_abuse.htm

Extracted Feb. 4th, 2009

HR 503 IH

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 503

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**January 14, 2009**

Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. BONO MACK, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. INGLIS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009'.

SEC. 2. SLAUGHTER OF HORSES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

(a) In General- Chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

'Sec. 50. Slaughter of horses for human consumption

'(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), whoever knowingly--

'(1) possesses, ships, transports, purchases, sells, delivers, or receives, in or affecting interstate commerce or foreign commerce, any horse with the intent that it is to be slaughtered for human consumption; or

'(2) possesses, ships, transports, purchases, sells, delivers, or receives, in or affecting interstate commerce or foreign commerce, any horse flesh or carcass or part of a carcass, with the intent that it is to be used for human consumption;

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years or both.

'(b) If--

'(1) the defendant engages in conduct that would otherwise constitute an offense under subsection (a);

'(2) the defendant has no prior conviction under this section; and

'(3) the conduct involves less than five horses or less than 2000 pounds of horse flesh or carcass or part of a carcass;

the defendant shall, instead of being punished under that subsection, be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

'(c) As used in this section, the term 'horse' means any member of the family Equidae.'

(b) Clerical Amendment- The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

'50. Slaughter of horses for human consumption.'

END

THOMAS Home | Contact | Accessibility | Legal | USA.gov

HR 305 IH

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 305

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**January 8, 2009**

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. WHITFIELD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2009'.

SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION OF HORSES.

(a) In General- Chapter 805 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

'Sec. 80505. Transportation of horses

'(a) Prohibition- No person may transport, or cause to be transported, a horse from a place in a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States through or to a place in another State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another.

'(b) Civil Penalty- A person that knowingly violates this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of at least \$100 but not more than \$500 for each violation. A separate violation occurs under this section for each horse that is transported, or caused to be transported, in violation of this section. On learning of a violation, the Attorney General shall bring a civil action to collect the penalty in the district court of the United States for the judicial district in which the violation occurred or the defendant resides or does business.

'(c) Motor Vehicle Defined- In this section, the term 'motor vehicle' means a vehicle driven or drawn by mechanical power and manufactured primarily for use on public highways, but does not include a vehicle operated exclusively on a rail or rails.

'(d) Relationship to Other Laws- The penalty provided under this section shall be in addition to a penalty or remedy available under any other law or common law.'

(b) Conforming Amendment- The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

'80505. Transportation of horses.'

END

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TUESDAY

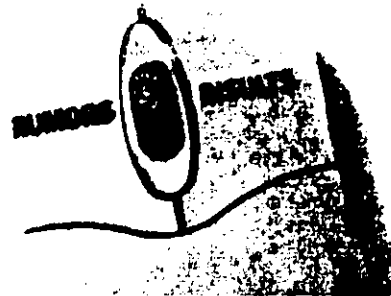
February 3, 2009

LIFE B1

The Forum

of Fargo-Moorhead

www.inforum.com



MALNUTRITION CITED IN FARM HORSE DEATHS

Judge: Horses
unjustifiably
exposed
to elements

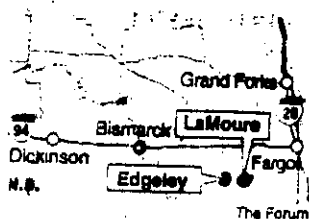
By Dave Olson
dolson@inforum.com

About 35 horses and two donkeys were recently taken into protective custody from an Edgeley, N.D., farm where at least half a dozen horses were found dead.

Three confiscated animals had to be euthanized, according to a veterinarian working with authorities on the case.

A judge ruled that horses on the Richard Musland farm in rural Edgeley were "unjustifiably exposed to cold or inclement weather" and fed hay with low nutritional value, some of which was rotting.

At a hearing last week, Southeast District District Court



Judge Daniel Narum also ruled the animals did not have access to water, other than snow on the ground.

Narum issued an order that keeps the horses in county custody for the time being.

According to information contained in court documents:

The LaMoure County Sheriff's Department received an anonymous call Jan. 8 stating that a number of horses belonging to Musland had died.

A deputy attempted to take pictures of surviving animals the next day, but because of snowfall he wasn't able to reach them.

DEATHS: Back Page



Special to The Forum

Photographs taken by a LaMoure County sheriff's deputy were introduced at a recent court hearing to support the county's confiscation of dozens of horses from an Edgeley, N.D., farm.

DEATHS: Horses found in snow

From Page A1

A deputy took photos of the horses Jan. 14 and spoke with Musland, who told the deputy three horses had died from ringworm, but the surviving animals were fine.

On Jan. 20, photos of the surviving horses were shown to Dr. Sara Fridrych, a Lisbon, N.D., veterinarian working as an agent for the state veterinarian's office.

Fridrych and a deputy visited Musland's property, and Fridrych told the deputy two of the horses were sick and needed to be put down.

She said the rest needed to be removed because they were in need of care.

LaMoure County Sheriff Robert Fernandes and the county state's attorney's office told the deputy to take custody of the animals and 37 were placed with another farmer for safekeeping, according to court records.

An autopsy on one of the dead horses indicated malnutrition, according to court documents.

The records show a number of dead horses were found under piles of snow.

Fridrych said Monday that 10 horses died, including two that were euthanized around the time the confiscation took place, and a third that was euthanized later.

No charges have been filed. Fernandes and LaMoure County State's Attorney Kimberly

We always have inhumane treatment of animal complaints going on, especially this winter. It's been a harsh winter in some areas.

Dr. Susan Keller
State veterinarian

when reached by phone Monday.

Dr. Susan Keller, state veterinarian, said her office is involved in the investigation, but she declined to discuss details.

"We always have inhumane treatment of animal complaints going on, especially this winter," she said. "It's been a harsh winter in some areas."

She said the Edgeley matter is the most severe case her office is dealing with.

"If animals are dying, you have to figure out: Was it because of the winter, or is it because of lack of care?" Keller said.

When temperatures fall like they have this winter, owners need to make sure livestock are getting adequate amounts of quality food, she said.

"People may not be aware that what they are feeding is not enough to keep energy in those animals."

On The Frontline ~ The Issue ~ The Organization ~ Take Action ~ Home

The Issue of Unwanted Horses

It is a troubling issue for people who care about horses.

While exact numbers are difficult to pin down, there are as many as 100,000 unwanted horses in our country each year, and not enough homes or rescue facilities to care for them.

Where will these horses go? Who will take care of them?



August, 2008: Eleven horses, obviously neglected, are abandoned along a road in Clackamas County, Oregon. Who did it? Authorities say it's a mystery: their only clue was the green tags attached to the horses' hips. [Click Here to find out how their story ended.](#)

Our **News From The Front** page and our **Issue** page have many more current reports and commentaries about the growing crisis of horse abandonment across the country.

A humane and federally-regulated euthanasia option for owners of unwanted horses was taken away when the last U.S. slaughter facility closed its doors. Horse rescue facilities are full, with longer and longer waiting lists. With each passing week comes another story about unwanted horses being turned out to fend for themselves, or slowly dwindling from neglect and starvation. Other horses are condemned to suffer long journeys to processing facilities outside our borders, where the end may be prolonged and painful.

The animal rights movement led the charge to close U.S. slaughter plants. These folks probably meant well, but they're not horsemen. Instead of saving horses, these groups have only intensified their suffering.

The **United Horsemen's Front** promotes horse welfare and the health of the horse industry by providing accurate, timely information about the unintended consequences of the ban on equine slaughter in the United States. The United Horsemen's Front seeks to unify our country's horsemen and -women in our common goal: achieving humane and realistic solutions to the unwanted horse problem from the perspective of experienced horse people who have the best interest of the horse at heart.

Our lawmakers need to hear from people who know what's best for horses: the horsemen and -women who own, ride, train, and raise them. The animal rights movement is uninformed on this issue,

HB 1496
Testimony of Karen Cudmore

*Same
given to
Hollan*

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Agriculture Committee:

I have had horses all of my life. I raise Foundation bred Quarter Horses. I believe in preserving foundation bloodlines. When started breeding, I was able to average \$700.00 for the foals off of the mares. At that time it was better than raising calves. I continued to expand my breeding program.

I kept the breeding program to compensate my income. It was ideal for my young son and me. I didn't need to take an extra job (off the farm) which would take me away from my son.

I am concerned about losing the diversity of the bloodlines within the horse breeds. Small breeders (10-15 mares) such as me are cutting back on breeding our mares or are TRYING to get out of the business. We care about our stock and are having a hard time finding an outlet for these animals.

When there is a BASE price for these animals, it is easier to find someone willing to speculate on an older animal (possibly to get some foals or just to have as a pet). However, we are seeing with the lack of a base price, no one wants them.

There is the problem of the lack of horse sales in the area. Many horses brought little to nothing at the sales barn and some owners didn't bother to pick up the horses that didn't sell. I was fortunate to sell 2 Young horses (a registered yearling and a 2 yr. old) last fall for \$80.00/ horse. There was nothing wrong with either of these animals. My take home was \$60.00/ horse. There wasn't much left with the high cost of fuel, time, and feed.

I know of people whose income was dependent upon the sales of their horses. They are in need of help. These people don't have just a few animals. They need to purchase feed for them with money that they don't have because they can not sell the horses. We are getting to a STATE OF EMERGENCY.

With this bill, we must keep in mind that HORSES ARE LIVESTOCK.

I love my horses as much as any caring person with livestock but I am realistic. We need to have processing plants centrally located to cut back on the stress of the animals. We need to keep these processing plants functioning at high standards.

Since the closing of the processing plants, there has been a decline in the amount of care these animals are receiving.

Please, help us with this HB 1496 and help the animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Cudmore
Park River, ND
701-284-7420

We have been raising Appaloosa Horses since the 1970's.

*Same
given to
Horse*

We have been through the lows, highs and now back to the lows. I made my start buying grade Colts and cheaper horses in the 70's. I broke them and resold them for more money, reinvested in better quality registered stock. I have always worked on better quality, and a wide range styles to fit many disciplines. I enjoyed and did many different activities with them. I educate Kids through 4-H and school Kids on my farm.

I ran into some bad deals that the horses weren't sound, liked to kick, or couldn't get in foal. These I would sell and buy back better. This was operated as a Business, Standing Stallions, Raising and Training Foals. I've had an average of 20-30 horses. The market has given me a base or bottom line.

My start was buying \$50 Foals and \$300 Horses in the 1970's resold for \$500 to \$1000.

The 1980's I was Selling foals for \$500- \$1000. Mares were at \$700 - \$1000.

The 1990's I was buying Mares at \$1000-\$2000. My foals were averaging \$1000 selling some as much as \$2500. Things were rocking and rolling, Canada was selling their horses down here for the good prices and exchange was great and they flooded our market with their horses.

The 2000's I sold 2 foals in 2001 for \$5000 each. Others averaged \$1200. I sold one Colt for \$2500, promoted him and showed him at the World Show. 911 hit, that was same month and the prices plunged. He was sold at the world sale for \$1650.

PMU lines started getting closed down, flooding the market with more horses. My averages have been cut by half in the last 2 years. This last Fall I sold Foals at \$125 - \$400. One sold off the farm for \$750 that would have brought \$5000 in earlier years. My mares that I bought for \$1500 I sold last fall for \$300 - \$700. I sold horses at low prices plus paid Gas, Room and Selling Fees. It didn't pencil out. A month later I saw Foals sell for under \$20 and it cost \$25 to sell them and broke horses didn't bring \$200.

Today, I know of many Good Horses for sale and no one dares buy them. I have people offering me to take the horses for free. I had a stallion that nearly killed me several times, broke my finger. He kicked me 3 times at the Sale I took him too; He was a killer horse in 2 ways. There was a market for him, and I'm sorry people eat horse meat and that doesn't bother me. We should be able to monitor the Transporting and Kill methods.

"Open the Slaughter plants."

Thank You

River Bend Appaloosas
Joleen Swartz
Park River, ND

Miller, Joe T.

From: BAYNICKSMOMMA@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 8:27 AM
To: Froelich, Rodney; Miller, Joe T.
Subject: rkilichowski@nd.gov

*Same given
to house*

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned horse owner, I am writing to you in a plea for help. At one point in time I was against the whole slaughter industry but in recent times, I am seeing a true need for the slaughter industry. Well, I take in what I can I know I can't save every horse from the pain and suffering that some are enduring. I have seen and heard stories of horses that are sitting in pastures with little or no food due to improper care. Economic times are hard and of course, some of these animals are being neglected due to lack of money on the owners behalf and some are just plain being neglected. Others have injuries that were improperly treated from the get go and have to live lives of suffering beyond our belief.

I must say, I am a single mom of 2 and I manage to do what I can to support the 9 horses that live on my farm, of which a few I have rescued. I'm not into the horse business for money at all. My heart goes out to these animals. I know some people might look at it as a way of bringing the price of horses back up but I guarantee you that there are more people out there that are looking at things from the point of the horse and how much they are suffering. Yes, there might be a few good horses that might end up at the slaughter house due to some person's stupidity but I'd rather sacrifice a few good horses than to see the many, many horses that are getting hit on roads due to owners turning them loose, suffering due to malnutrition, suffering due to lack of treatment/care, etc. I'm sure most horse owners are in support of this too or at least most that I've talked to.

It is my plea to you that this country be able to re-open or start a slaughter facility with humane slaughter regulations followed. Please think of the "HORSE" first. Put yourself in their shoes for a few seconds and think about it.

Sincerely,
Misty Roush
Concerned Horse Owner in PA

Great Deals on Dell Laptops. Starting at \$499.

Prepared for Senator Flakoll
February 12, 2009

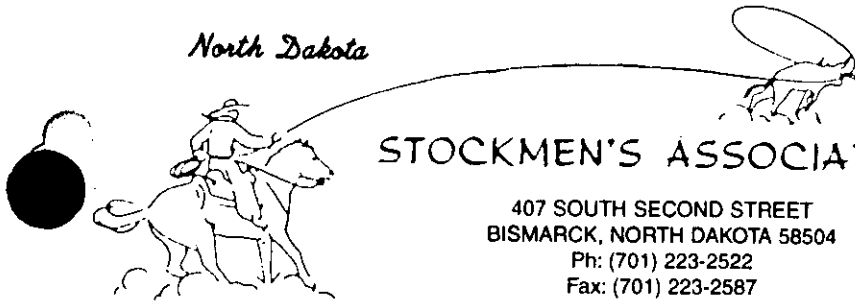
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4021

Page 1, after line 10, insert:

"WHEREAS, when horse owners abandon their animals on public lands, it can negatively impact herds of wild horses including the introduction of congenital defects and diseases; and"

Renumber accordingly

North Dakota



STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION

407 SOUTH SECOND STREET
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58504
Ph: (701) 223-2522
Fax: (701) 223-2587
e-mail: ndsa@ndstockmen.org
www.ndstockmen.org

SCR 4021

Good morning, Chairman Flakoll and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association stands in strong support of SCR 4021, since it recognizes the critical situation the horse industry has been in ever since the nation's three horse processing facilities were closed due to the horse slaughter ban put in place a few years ago. The ban has stripped horse owners of their property rights, crippled the domestic horse market, skyrocketed the number of abandoned animals and, overall, diminished, not improved, the plight of animals. Now, proposed legislation to prohibit the transport of horses destined for slaughter could amplify this already dire situation.

Horse processing facilities are necessary, because they provide horse owners the ability to market their animals and recapture some value from their animals.

Without horse processing facilities in the United States, the value of the horse at market has dramatically decreased. It is not uncommon to hear of horses selling for \$5, \$10 or \$15 or even given away. In some cases, it costs more to get the animals to the market than they bring when they are sold.

Since the American horse processing facilities have closed, the number of reports of abandoned horses our inspection team has been asked to respond to has gone up dramatically, which we attribute to the current economics condition of the state. In fact, our chief brand inspector estimates that the number of equine estrays have tripled over the last three years. With the high cost of fuel and feed and the low market value of horses, some folks decide it's not worth the trip to town and instead "let the problem take care of itself." Horses are being dumped off in parks and public pastures and left to starve or suffer from discomfort and pain.

Some argue that horse adoption or rescue facilities are the answer, but these facilities do not have the resources or capabilities to care for the 100,000-plus horses that are affected, especially during times of shrinking federal budgets and underfunded programs.

The horse slaughter ban in the United States has diminished, not enhanced, the quality of life for many horses, leaving thousands needing care, food and shelter. It has created an economic woe in a formerly flourishing industry and has been set forth for reasons other than science, safety or public health.

It is imperative that Congress revisits its earlier actions and avoids making another mistake with the transportation ban it is now considering. This resolution will help emphasize those points, so we ask for your do-pass recommendation on it.

Dear Senate Agricultural Committee, Attachment #7

● My name is Diane Knutson-Lee, I live in Fargo, N.D. I'm writing concerning ND Bill SCR 4021. I oppose the concept that having a slaughterhouse in ND would even be considered! Why don't you look into ways to humanely assist in euthanasia assistance, or perhaps rescue shelters. Or perhaps do something about overbreeding. Something other than an inhumane slaughterhouse!

● Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Diane Knutson-Lee

please: ND SCR4021 - 11AM Senate AG Com Mtg.

To: **North Dakota Agricultural Committee Members**
 Fax: Kathryn & John Webers (781) 834-0527 FAX TO: **701-328-3615**
 From: 1 pg/ February 12, 2009

Honorable ND Senate Agricultural Committee members:

We write in regard to ND SCR4021, to be heard Thursday Feb 12 at 11AM by the ND Senate Agriculture Committee. We respectfully ask you to VOTE NO on this resolution. We respectfully urge you to perform due diligence for your and your constituent's assurance on these claims. Clearly, Committee members will want to be certain that any claims made in regard to the resolution can be substantiated.

Members may hear some may make the case for slaughter because of a perceived need to address a mysteriously large abandoned/unwanted horse population. This population is stated in the resolution to be above 100,000, yet common sense tells you that if that were so, North Dakota media would be giving this substantial coverage, which it is not. As a committee member you will ask to see sworn affidavits and police reports supporting any claims of abandoned horses. Actual expenses to euthanize unwanted horses would be relatively easy to address via humane euthanasia. At an average cost of \$250 for euthanasia, state humane societies could easily come together to fund this peaceful and humane exit, which commercial slaughter for profit is not.

Even when there were horse slaughter plants in the US, they were part of a horse meat industry that was only 0.001% of the US meat industry. The US horse slaughterhouses were all foreign-owned. Horse slaughter is so disliked by the American public that no US-based company will ever be associated with it, so any US efforts will very likely continue to be under foreign-owned management. As when these corporations operated previously here, they paid effectively no income taxes and paid no export taxes, meaning the US government effectively subsidized the sale of horse meat to high-end consumers in Asia and Europe. In these economic times that is a politically unpopular effort to support, whether to your constituents or in regard to the State's bond ratings.

When horse slaughter plants operated in the US, the communities where they were located found they operated in violation of environmental and local regulations, by dumping waste illegally, and by putting burdens on municipalities and adjacent environments, with little means to capture clean-up costs. Former Mayor Paula Bacon of Kaufman, TX can describe those burdens which her town endured without mitigation. Can you subject North Dakota municipalities to those financial and environmental burdens?

Transport issues will not be lessened by US plants. The US encompasses a vast square mile area and regardless of US- or Canadian/Mexican-based plants, transport distances are a life-threatening burden on horses shipped to slaughter.

There is no benefit here to the people of North Dakota to initiate horse slaughter, economically or otherwise. Any profits from this brutal activity will go into the pockets of foreign investors while tourism and the state's good name will be darkened. Committee members surely must be aware that the captive bolt gun was designed to be effective on cattle skulls, and that cattle are held in stocks to secure their head for an effective hit. No such effort is used for horses, nor can it be done economically. Further, equine brains are well back in their skull and the bolt fails to reach it. This suffering is unacceptable. Horse slaughter is fraught with undue suffering and negative marks against the state.

As to the foreign-owned Beltex plant in Fort Worth, TX there are recently-released 2007 USDA documents showing terrible, too-common suffering of the animals under USDA regulations and oversight. Under USDA's watch, this is the on-the-ground reality and this is surely what North Dakota does not want to be associated with. People throughout the US know this to be the reality, regardless of well-intentioned efforts to gain economic stimulus in North Dakota. See: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2008/12/prweb1704434.htm> and <http://www.khou.com/video/index.html?nvid=315146>

North Dakota should determine its own way, but be aware that supporting horse slaughter endangers my horse (a retired racing Standardbred) and horses in ALL states. My horse is a target for theft as long as states act to support slaughter. I'm responsible for my horse, please encourage and enable responsibility to North Dakotans with their horses. Vote no on ND SCR4021.

Kathryn P. Webers John Webers



K Webers
<kwebers@hotmail.co
m>

02/11/2009 11:23 PM

To: <lcouncil@nd.gov>
Select Interim Committee

cc:

Subject: ND SCR4021 -11AM Senate AG Com Mtg Feb 12 comments

Honorable ND Senate Agricultural Committee members:<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns =
"urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

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When horse slaughter plants operated in the US, the communities where they were located found they operated in violation of environmental and local regulations, by dumping waste illegally, and by putting burdens on municipalities and adjacent environments, with little means to capture clean-up costs. Former Mayor Paula Bacon of Kaufman, TX can describe those burdens which her town endured without mitigation. Can you subject North Dakota municipalities to those financial and environmental burdens?

Transport issues will not be lessened by US plants. The US encompasses a vast square mile area and regardless of US- or Canadian/Mexican-based plants, transport distances are a life-threatening burden on horses shipped to slaughter.

There is no benefit here to the people of North Dakota to initiate horse slaughter, economically or otherwise. Any profits from this brutal activity will go into the pockets of foreign investors while tourism and the state's good name will be darkened. Committee members surely must be aware that the captive bolt gun was designed to be effective on cattle skulls, and that cattle are held in stocks to secure their head for an effective hit. No such effort is used for horses, nor can it be done economically. Further, equine brains are well back in their skull and the bolt fails to reach it. This suffering is unacceptable. Horse slaughter is fraught with undue suffering and negative marks against the state.

As to the foreign-owned Beltex plant in Fort Worth, TX there are recently-released 2007 USDA documents showing terrible, too-common suffering of the animals under USDA regulations and oversight. Under USDA's watch, this is the on-the-ground reality and this is surely what North Dakota does not want to be associated with. People throughout the US know this to be the reality, regardless of well-intentioned efforts to gain economic stimulus in North Dakota. See:
<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2008/12/prweb1704434.htm> and
<http://www.khou.com/video/index.html?nvid=315146>

North Dakota should determine its own way, but be aware that supporting horse slaughter endangers my horse (a retired racing Standardbred) and horses in ALL states. My horse is a target for theft as long as states act to support slaughter. I'm responsible for my horse, please encourage and enable responsibility to North Dakotans with their horses. **Vote no on ND SCR4021.**

Most respectfully,

Kathryn & John Webers

Windows Live™: Keep your life in sync. Check it out.

FARM Alert

Farm Animal Rights Movement

Join Our Prop 2 Follow-Through Campaign

We invite your generous support for our "Operation Prop 2 Follow-Through" to promote a vegan diet in California.

The Campaign was launched by us with a coalition of five organizations to take advantage of the public awareness of factory farming atrocities and the large number of activists created by last November's Proposition 2 initiative. The Proposition requires that farmed animals have space to turn around and spread their wings.

But, the new law still tolerates deprivation, mutilation, suffocating of newborn male chicks, and other atrocities of factory farms. It permits the hauling of helpless animals for days, exposed to extreme weather conditions, without food and water. It does not protect them from being gutted, dismembered, and skinned while still conscious at the slaughterhouse.

The only effective long-term solution to animal abuse is a vegan diet.

This is what your generous support is accomplishing for these innocent animals:

- Launching the LiveVegan.org website that documents in detail the atrocities and the many benefits of a vegan diet and provides links to other resources
- Placing ten billboards in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego.
- Placing 700 bus display cards in SF, LA, SD, plus Orange County.
- Printing 20,000 cards touting the many benefits of a vegan diet
- Sending letters to newspaper editors and news releases to California media.
- Conducting massive leafleting and tabling in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties, as well as the SF Bay area ([see details](#))



Please charge your donation on-line or by phone at 800-632-8688. You can also mail a check to FARM, 10101 Ashburton Ln, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Thank you for all your care and compassion,

Alex Hershaft, Founder/President, FARM
Dawn Moncrief, Executive Director, FARM

The sponsoring organizations include FARM, In Defense of Animals, Animal Protection and Rescue League, Mercy For Animals, and Vegan Outreach.



To unsubscribe or change your profile, [click here](#)

FARMUSA.org 10101 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda MD 20817 888-FARMUSA

Miller, Joe T.

From: Terri Thiel [territ@ndsupernet.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 11:19 PM
To: Miller, Joe T.
Subject: HB 1496

Dear Senator Miller,

I am not able to attend the committee hearing relating to HB 1496, please accept my email testimony.

As an equine owner, my responsibility includes nutrition, health care, shelter and exercise for my horses. As a responsible horse owner and a licensed ND Veterinary Technician, I support HB 1496.

Because of the closure of the US slaughter plants that once accepted horses, horses are now being shipped on lengthy trips to Mexico. The trip becomes an excessive haul for them, being unloaded at a facility that is the outside US Humane Slaughter Act.

Slaughter procedures in Mexico include stabbing. The closure of the plants removed any reasonable means for horses to be moved toward humane slaughter.

Many parts of the nation are already seeing horses abandoned. In a perfect world, we'd have plenty of safe, affordable, environmentally sound methods of "warehousing" or disposing of horses that no one wanted. There are a few sanctuaries, but far, far fewer than what would be required to fill the need.

Some may ask about simply having the vet euthanize the horse? It is an option for some, but it's not as easy or inexpensive as people might think. How do you dispose of such a large animal safely? What do horse owners do if they are urban residents and yet border their horse and are faced with this situation?

Some groups may feel "emotional" about this subject. First off, in my mind, this conversation should include only horse owners, not groups who watch Trigger on TV. One needs to come back to the practical side of what anti-legislation will do - many horses not properly cared for, with no where to go. Because that's emotional too.

Please support HB 1496.

Sincerely,

Terri Thiel
territ@ndsupernet.com
10388 35th St. SW
Dickinson, ND 58601
1-225-7809

Miller, Joe T.

From: Joe & Paula Hickel [hickel@gondtc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 1:47 PM
To: Miller, Joe T.
Subject: HB 1496 and SB 4021

3/4/09

To: North Dakota State Senator Joe
Miller

From: Joseph Hickel
9222 45th St. NE
Crary, ND 58327
(701)398-3099
hickel@gondtc.com

Dear Senator,

The issue of Horse Slaughter is not one most of us would like to touch with a 10 foot poll. Those for the ban on this topic have tried to make those of us in the horse business out to be animal haters. I assure you we are not! I know, I personally did not get into the business thinking that I would raise horses for slaughter. It simply becomes a necessary factor of the business. Those of us in the horse business would not have chosen to have these wonderful animals if we were only in it for the monetary gain generated from slaughter. Horses are livestock and even as beautiful as they are, and can be, we need to keep this in mind. All horse owners have the option when that time comes of having any horse that needs to be euthanized or put down, they do not have to sell them for slaughter. It is a personal choice and should be left as such. I personally feel that if a horse is old, fractious/dangerous, or has no useful purpose we need to have slaughter as an option. I have found that the monetary gain, no matter how big or small, of selling a horse in such a situation allows me more finances to take better care of the animals I do keep.

As someone heavily involved in the horse business as a breeder, consignment sale owner/manager, and auctioneer I have had the opportunity to see how this affects not only me personally, but all of the people involved in the horse industry. Farm and ranch supply stores, feed stores, tack stores, sale barns, veterinarians, farriers, and auctioneers just to name a few. Without any true way to set a bottom to the market the horse industry is going to suffer for a long time to come. I feel, the affects of not having a slaughter market and the damage it could cause will create not yet seen, irreversible problems down the road. I urge you to support HB 1496 and SB 4021. I have always felt proud to be a open minded and reasonable thinking native born North Dakotan. Lets prove this to ourselves and the rest of the nation on this issue. Thank you for reading my email and if you have any further questions or discussion on this matter please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Joseph Hickel

#2
Senator Miller
3/5/09

SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #4021

We the people of the state of North Dakota petition that Senate Resolution # 4021 be passed.

We urge Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States and to allow transportation and processing of horses.

Name	Address	ZipCode
1 Mark Kartes	6068 88 th Ave SE	Dickinson, ND 58431
2 Wesley Knudsen	18144 59th St SE	Marion, ND 58466
3 Dale Pkarski	408 3rd Ave	Dickinson, ND 58431
4 Kelly Klein	7391 14th Ave SE	LaMoure, ND 58458
5 Brett Johnson	PO Box 1	Dickinson 58431
6 John Miller	1412 1st	Dickinson 58431
7 Henry J. Behle	8801 56th St	Adrian, ND 58472
8 Ron Rode	9453 60th St SE	Marion, ND 58466
9 Mark Johnson	9394 Hwy 46	Marion, ND
10 Greg Olson	6737 97th Ave SE	LaMoure, ND 58458
11 Evan Backlund	10059 CR 34	LaMoure, ND
12 Jared Miedema	5017 RIDGE Ave SE	Litchville, ND 58461
13 Mike Pkarski	PO Box 283	LaMoure, ND 58458
14 Ray Cline	301 Main A.	Marion, ND 58466
15 Steve Anderson	435th 45th Ave S	Faroo, ND 58104
16 Eric Anstett	10831 City Hwy 35	Litchville, ND 58461
17 Matt Cuyper	10423 45th St SE	Litchville, ND 58461
18 Lucas Rode	8880 57th St SE	Adrian, ND 58472
19 Greg Cline	10423 45th St SE	Litchville, ND 58461
20 Greg Cline	416 3rd Ave	Dickinson 58431
21 Steve Cuyper	10423 45th St SE	Litchville, ND 58461
22 Dan Johnson	102 5th Ave	Dickinson 58431
23 Dan Johnson	506 2nd St	Montpelier, ND 58472
24 Wayne Miller	6109 93 Ave	Dickinson, ND 58431
25 Brenda Kiser	10831 6th Ave SW	Litchville, ND 58461
26 John Miller	P.O. Box 121	Dickinson
27 Greg Johnson	5838 110 Ave S.E.	Litchville, ND 58461
28 Gerald Miller	10765 County RD 34	LaMoure, ND 58458
29 Mike Miller	10765 (C. Rd. 34)	LaMoure, ND 58458
30 Randy Hansen	5739 110 Ave SE	Litchville, ND 58461
31 Dan Hansen	5739 110 Ave SE	Litchville, ND 58461
32 Josh Hansen	5809 ND Hwy 1 SE	Litchville, ND 58461
33 Carol Walter	618 4th Avenue SE	Jamestown, ND 58401
34 Clayton Walfarer	5841 109th Ave SE	Litchville, ND 58461
35 Greg Backlund	5838 110 Ave SE	Litchville, ND 58461

SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #4021

We the people of the state of North Dakota petition that Senate Resolution # 4021 be passed.

We urge Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States and to allow transportation and processing of horses.

Name	Address	ZipCode
1. Ryan Bruck	8835 HWY 40 Montpelier ND	58472
2. Melissa Barnick	8835 HWY 40 MONTPELIER ND	58472
3. Rod Larson	4131-97th Ave SE Spiritwood ND	58481
4. Al Lamp	1413 5 1/2 AVE NE JIMST N.D.	58401
5. Dennis Pommerehne	1610 6th Ave. NE Jmt ND	58401
6. Val Pommerehne	1610-6th Ave. NE Jamestown, ND	58401
7. Sandy Gump	1413 5 1/2 Ave NE Jmt. ND	58401
8. Elaine D. Larson	8752 40th St SE Jmt ND	58401
9. Thurston Lee	605 3rd Ave NE Jmt ND	58401
10. Mary Brandenburg	4575 82nd St SE Jmt ND	58401
11. Laura Muller	124 E 1st Jmt ND	58401
12. Kathy Blouin	8752 40th St SE Jmt ND	58401
13. Melanie Hansen	619 3rd St Montpelier ND	58472
14. Karen Lee	605 3 Ave NE Jamestown ND	58401
15. Tommy Gump	530 18th Ave SE Jmt ND	58401
16. Randy Gump	1407 10th Ave. NE #6 Jamestown ND	58401
17. Jacob Nease	4676 96th Ave SE Jmt ND	58497
18. Tyler Kestel	5051 89th SE Montpelier ND	58472
19. Anna Elmer	5121 97 Ave SE Jmt ND	58401
20. Emily DeBice	Montpelier ND	58472
21. Nick DeBice	Montpelier ND	58472
22. Megan Nally	Montpelier ND	58472
23. Linda Nally	Montpelier ND	58472
24. David Elmer	5121 97 Ave SE Jmt ND	58401
25. Kevin Smith	9831 50th St SE Jmt ND	58401
26. John Wanzel	1413 4th Ave NE Jmt ND	58401
27. Brenda Gump	109 Main St Jmt ND	58401
28. Lynn Gump	10666 6th St SE LaMoure ND	58455
29. Kim Isakson	10510 43 St SE Litchville ND	58461
30. Brady Dail	4145 49th St SE Jmt ND	58401
31. Mike Peterson	5585 Co Hwy 60 Litchville ND	58461
32. Bruce Hovland	5585 Co Hwy 60 Litchville ND	58461
33. Cory Van Dyke	9731 44th St SE Jmt ND	58497
34.		
35.		

We urge Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States and to allow transportation and processing of horses.

Name	Address	ZipCode
1. Wilfred Johnson	606 2nd St Montpelier	58472
2. Chad Koush	Box 64 Montpelier	58472
3. Julie Jansen	Box 66 Montpelier	58472
4. David Jansen	Box 66 Montpelier	58472
5. Laura VanDusen	4541 81 Ave SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
6. Steve Van Asperen	4541 81 Ave SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
7. Brian Shabel	4722 90 Ave SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
8. Robert Lohr	P.O. Box 149 Montpelier	ND 58472
9. Martha Lohr	P.O. Box 1443 Jamestown	ND 58402
10. Phil McBratney	6173r 117 Montpelier	VT 58472
11. Rick Lohr	904 Thompson Ave Jamestown	ND 58401
12. Scott Lohr	5555 60 Hwy 60 SE Litchville	ND 58461
13. Phil Lohr	Montpelier Montpelier	VT 58472
14. Lynn Lohr	506 Mount Montpelier	ND 58472
15. Jan Lohr	5121 97 Ave SE Marion	ND 58466
16. Corey Hall	P.O. Box 263 Ypsilanti	MI 48197
17. J. Thomas Palmer	8965 16th St Courtney	ND 58406
18. Dawn R Headland	4400 92nd Ave SE Montpelier	ND 58472
19. Anna Elam	5126 97 Ave SE Marion	ND 58466
20. Anna Elam	5121 97 Ave SE Marion	ND 58466
21. Anna Elam	9145 49th St SE Montpelier	ND 58472
22. Anna Elam	9145 49th St SE Montpelier	ND 58472
23. Anna Elam	9145 49th St SE Montpelier	ND 58472
24. Brian VanDusen	2652 Hwy 281 SE Jamestown	ND 58401
25. Lori Dally	9114 49th St SE Montpelier	ND 58472
26. Jennifer Anderson	2652 Hwy 281 SE Jamestown	ND 58401
27. Coleen Spiller	1526 Cambridge Dr. Elmwood	ND 58503
28. Trent Fisher	208 H.D.V. Jamestown	ND 58401
29. Jay Sommers	9051 37th St SE Jamestown	ND 58401
30. Cheryl Barton	8779-43rd St SE Ypsilanti	MI 48197
31. Cheryl Barton	8779-43rd St SE Ypsilanti	MI 48197
32. William A. Carlson	4945 87th Ave SE Montpelier	ND 58472
33. Brian Berish	9210 48th St SE Ypsilanti	MI 48197
34. Nelly Butsch	9210 48th St SE Ypsilanti	MI 48197
35. Meagan Smith	5012 90th Ave SE Marion	ND 58466

SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #4021

We the people of the state of North Dakota petition that Senate Resolution # 4021 be passed.

We urge Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States and to allow transportation and processing of horses.

Name	Address	ZipCode
1. Billie Johnson	606 2nd St Montpelier	58472
2. Chod Johnson	P.O. Box 64 Montpelier	58472
3. Twila Jensen	Box 66 Montpelier	58472
4. David Jensen	Box 66 Montpelier	58472
5. Laura Viningsen	4541 89 Ave SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
6. Steve Van Asperen	4541 89 Ave SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
7. Brian Johnson	4374 802 Ave SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
8. Robert Johnson	P.O. Box 144 Montpelier ND	58472
9. Keith Christ	P.O. Box 1443 Jamestown ND	58402
10. Phil Johnson	Box 117 Montpelier ND	58472
11. Ken Johnson	904 Thompson Ave Jamestown ND	58401
12. Scott Johnson	5585 60th Ave SE Littleton CO	80120
13. Paul Johnson	Montpelier Montpelier ND	58472
14. Lynn Johnson	506 Mount Montpelier ND	58472
15. John Johnson	5121 97 Ave SE Marion ND	58466
16. Corey Doll	P.O. Box 263 Ypsilanti MI	48197
17. THOMAS PALMER	8965 16th St Courtney ND	58406
18. Dawn R Headland	4900 9th Ave SE Montpelier ND	58472
19. Tanya Johnson	5121 97 Ave SE Marion ND	58466
20. John Johnson	5121 97 Ave SE Marion ND	58466
21. John Johnson	9145 49th St SE Montpelier ND	58472
22. John Johnson	9145 49th St SE Montpelier ND	58472
23. Brian Johnson	9114 49th St SE Montpelier ND	58472
24. Brian Johnson	2652 Hwy 281 SE Jamestown ND	58401
25. Lori Doll	9114 49th St SE Montpelier ND	58472
26. Jennifer Anderson	2652 Hwy 281 SE Jamestown ND	58401
27. Coleen Johnson	1526 Camarillo Dr. Bismarck ND	58503
28. Trent Fisher	218 N.D.V. Jamestown ND	58401
29. Jay Simmons	9051 37th St SE Jamestown ND	58401
30. John Johnson	8777-43rd St SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
31. John Johnson	8777-43rd St SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
32. William A. Johnson	4945 87th Ave SE Montpelier ND	58472
33. Brian Johnson	9210 48th St SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
34. John Johnson	9210 48th St SE Ypsilanti MI	48197
35. Megan Smith	5312 99th Ave SE Marion ND	58466

SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #4021

We the people of the state of North Dakota petition that Senate Resolution # 4021 be passed.

We urge Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States and to allow transportation and processing of horses.

Name	Address	ZipCode
1 Gary Springer	Box 366 Milnor	58060
2 Vicki Nelson	Box 148 Milnor	58060
3 Gary Springer	Box 42 Milnor	58060
4 Paul Nelson	Box 362 Milnor	58060
5 Annie P. Nelson	Box 208 Milnor	58060
6 Raymond Nelson	Box 69 Milnor	58060
7 Gary Nelson	P.O. Box 221 Milnor	58060
8 Linda J. Nelson	P.O. Box 154 Milnor	58060
9 Joseph J. Nelson	112 1 Ave Milnor	58060
10 Charles E. Foyt	Box 303 Milnor	58060
11 Dan M. M. M.	315 9th Ave Milnor	58060
12 Vicki Nelson	9545 137th Ave Milnor	58060
13 M. M. M.	124 87th Ave SE	58060
14 Mrs. Ardele Johnson	666 7th St. Milnor	58060
15 Brad C. C.	7493 147th Ave SE Milnor ND	58060
16 Robert E. E.	516 2nd St. Milnor ND	58060
17 John M. M.	8512 145th Ave SE	58060
18 Jack E. E.	211 S. 7th St.	58060
19 James R. R.	203 S. 5th Ave	58060
20 Charles E. E.	215 9th Ave	58060
21 Kenneth E. E.	1603 6 1/2 Ave	58060
22 Robert E. E.	13137 79th St SE Milnor ND	58060
23 Perre E. E.	P.O. Box 224 Milnor ND	58060
24 Randy E. E.	Box 224 Milnor ND	58060
25 Tony E. E.	Box 224 Milnor ND	58060
26 Barbara E. E.	P.O. Box 46 Milnor	58060
27 Joan E. E.	Milnor ND	58060
28 Gary E. E.	14051 Hwy 10 Milnor, ND	58060
29 Gary E. E.	Milnor N.D.	58060
30 Ken E. E.	605 1/2 Ave - Milnor ND	58060
31 E. L. E. E.	2026 N. 1st	58060
32 Gary E. E.	Milnor ND	58060
33 Gary E. E.	P.O. Box 31 Milnor ND	58060
34 Gary E. E.	14611 Hwy 10 Milnor, ND	58060
35 Gary Springer	5805 14th Ave SE Sheldon ND	58060

SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #4021

We the people of the state of North Dakota petition that Senate Resolution # 4021 be passed.

We urge Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States and to allow transportation and processing of horses .

Name	Address	ZipCode
1 Wayne Smith	401 4th Ave Litchville ND	58461
2 Jack Farms	10624 52 ST SE Litchville ND	58461
3 Rodney Lebach	5937 105th AVE SE Litchville ND	58461
4 Jack Farms	10634 52nd St SE Litchville ND	58461
5 Jack Farms	204 5th Ave Litchville ND	58461
6 Wayne Q. Peterson	711 6th Ave S Litchville ND	58461
7 David Knutson	202 N. P Ave Litchville ND	58461
8 Jack Farms	10831 5th Ave SE Litchville ND	58461
9 Lynn Larson	10739 6th Ave SE Litchville ND	58461
10 Jack Farms	401 7th Ave Litchville ND	58461
11 Marie Hartman	202 - 5th Ave. Litchville, N.D.	58461
12 Jack Ann Schiffman	503 3rd Main Ave Litchville	58461
13 Jack Farms	5010 7th Ave SE Litchville ND	58461
14 Jack Farms	10634 52 ST SE Litchville	58461
15 Jack Farms	10613 50 ST SE Litchville	58461
16 F. L. Strinden	306 5th Ave. Litchville	58461
17 Mack Kluever	6002 7th St Litchville ND	58461
18 Eugene Olson	5499 107 Ave SE Litchville ND	58461
19 Eugene Olson	5499 107 Ave SE Litchville N.D.	58461
20 Marie Strinden	306 5th Ave. Litchville ND	58461
21 Fern Reenska	10663 50th St SE Litchville ND	58461
22 Donald Holbert	10489 57th St SE Litchville ND	58461
23 Jack Farms	10485 57th St SE Litchville ND	58461
24 Eugene Kluever	10820 53rd N. St Litchville ND	58461
25 Jacob E. Vrie	508 7th St Litchville N.D.	58461
26 Jack Farms	10624 52 SE Litchville, ND	58461
27 Eunice C. Peterson	310 4th Ave Litchville, ND	58461
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SUPPORT SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #4021

We the people of the state of North Dakota petition that Senate Resolution # 4021 be passed.

We urge Congress to recognize the need for regulated horse processing facilities in the United States and to allow transportation and processing of horses .

Name	Address	ZipCode
1 <u>Tom Bruse</u>	<u>P.O. Box 132</u>	<u>58441</u>
2 <u>Donna Dell</u>	<u>Kathryn, ND</u>	<u>58049</u>
3 <u>Chris Sapp</u>	<u>Courtney, ND 58426</u>	
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North Dakota



STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION

407 SOUTH SECOND STREET
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58504
Ph: (701) 223-2522
Fax: (701) 223-2587
e-mail: ndsa@ndstockmen.org
www.ndstockmen.org

#3

Julie Ellingson

3/5/09

4021

SCR 4021

Good morning, Chairman Johnson and members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Julie Ellingson, and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association stands in strong support of SCR 4021, since it recognizes the critical situation the horse industry has been in since the nation's three horse processing facilities were closed due to the processing ban put in place a few years ago. The ban has stripped horse owners of their property rights, crippled the domestic horse market, skyrocketed the number of abandoned animals and, overall, diminished, not improved, the plight of animals. Now, new proposed federal legislation to criminalize those who even transport horses destined for slaughter could amplify this already dire situation.

Horse processing facilities are necessary, because they provide horse owners the ability to market their animals and recapture some value from them. Without horse processing facilities in the United States, the value of the horse at market has dramatically decreased. It is not uncommon to hear of horses selling for \$5 or \$10 or even just given away. In some cases, it costs more to get the animals to market than they bring when they are sold.

Since the American processing facilities have closed, the number of reports of abandoned horses our inspection team has been asked to respond to has gone up dramatically, which we attribute to the current economics condition of the industry. Our chief brand inspector estimates that the number of equine estrays here have tripled over the last few years. With the high cost of fuel and

feed and the low market value of horses, some folks decide it's not worth the trip to town. Horses are being dumped off in parks and pastures and left to starve or suffer from discomfort and pain.

Some argue that horse adoption or rescue facilities are the answer, but these facilities do not have the resources or capabilities to care for the 100,000-plus horses that are affected, especially during times of shrinking federal budgets and underfunded programs.

The horse slaughter ban in the United States has diminished, not enhanced, the quality of life for many horses, leaving thousands needing care, food and shelter. It has created an economic crisis in a formerly flourishing industry and has been set forth for reasons other than science, safety or public health.

It is imperative that Congress revisits its earlier actions and avoids making another mistake with the transportation ban now being considered. This resolution will help emphasize those points, so we ask for your do-pass recommendation on it.