Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

As the Subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we respectfully ask you to include language that ensures no funding is authorized for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspections of horse slaughter facilities or horse meat, thus preventing horse slaughter plants from operating in the U.S. Similar language was in place from 2005-2011 and was reinstated in the Fiscal Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act when an amendment was adopted by voice vote in both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The provision has been included in each final bill since, most recently in Fiscal Year 2019.

Horse slaughter is unavoidably cruel and also raises serious food safety concerns. Horses, which are not raised as food animals, are given a wide variety of therapeutic drugs and treatments banned for use on animals intended for human consumption by the USDA. Horse meat is not consumed in the United States, but American horses are exported to slaughter for human consumption abroad. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on an industry that the American public so vehemently opposes. USDA resources should go toward inspecting and ensuring the quality of the food products Americans consume.

We support legislation to permanently ban horse slaughter in the U.S. and to ban the export of horses for that purpose abroad. However, until this ban is enacted, it is essential that Congress continue its commitment to the humane treatment of America’s horses and to food safety.

We urge you to include language in the Fiscal Year 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill that would prohibit the use of funds for horse slaughter inspections.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress