

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Chairman  
House Agriculture Committee  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Agriculture Committee  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott,

As the Agriculture Committee works to draft the upcoming Farm Bill, we write to request that you include the *Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act*. The *SAFE Act*, which has strong bipartisan support, would protect America's horses from being slaughtered for human consumption.

This legislation builds upon existing law prohibiting the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption that Congress passed through the 2018 Farm Bill. As with dogs and cats, we believe horse slaughter is a barbaric practice that has no place in this country.

For almost every year since 2005, Congress has included provisions in annual appropriations legislation specifically barring the use of federal funds for the operation of horse slaughter facilities. However, such prohibitions are only temporary and fail to prohibit the export of horses to be killed for human consumption in other countries.

In fact, in 2022, approximately 20,000 American horses were exported to Canadian and Mexican slaughterhouses to be killed for human consumption. It is clear that until Congress passes a permanent prohibition on the slaughter of horses and closes the loophole that allows them to be transported to foreign abattoirs, our nation's horses will continue to meet this unnecessary and inhumane end.

National polling shows overwhelming support – 83 percent – among Americans to ban horse slaughter. Efforts to end horse slaughter have seen significant bipartisan support in recent years. In fact, last Congress the U.S. House passed an amendment banning horse slaughter in the transportation and infrastructure package by voice vote.

Horses being trucked to slaughter endure long journeys crammed in trailers without adequate food, water, or rest. Because of their unique physiology and strong fight-or-flight reflex, panic-stricken horses can suffer repeated blows to the head in an effort to render them unconscious prior to slaughter.

In addition to the significant and well-documented welfare concerns that are associated with this industry, equines are not raised as food animals and are not maintained under the regulatory requirements for animals raised for human consumption. Throughout their lives, horses routinely receive a wide range of drugs and medications that are expressly banned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in food animals due to their toxicity to humans.

We appreciate your work in crafting a comprehensive Farm Bill that bolsters our country's agriculture policies and reflects the priorities of the American public. The 2023 Farm Bill presents an ideal

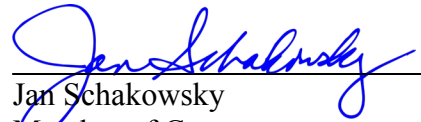
opportunity to end the slaughter of American horses once and for all. Ensuring that our nation's horses are afforded such protections is critical to food safety and to ensuring the humane treatment of these animals.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working together to pass a Farm Bill this year.

Sincerely,



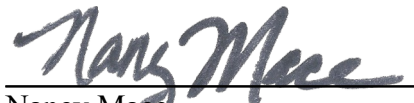
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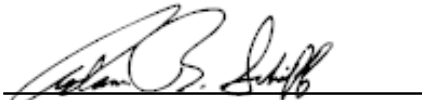
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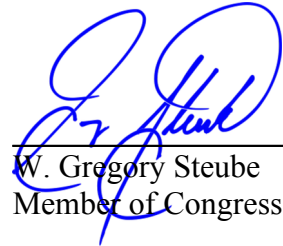
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