

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association  
Brad Harrelson, State Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Tom Davies, Board of Directors, Kansas Quarter Horse Association  
Jennifer Long-Hermesch, Diamond H Quarter Horses & Associates  
Pattie Stalder, Administrator, Kansas Horse Council  
Christine Mensch, FoxEye Ranch  
Careen Cain, Shooting Star Stables and Equine Rescue, Inc.  
Mary Pruitt, Lawrence, Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell introduced Careen Cain, Shooting Star Stables and Equine Rescue, Inc., to begin opening testimony on HCR 5004.

**Hearing on:**

**HCR 5004 - Urging Congress to oppose federal legislation interfering with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.**

**Opponents:**

Careen Cain, Shooting Star Stables and Equine Rescue, Inc., (Attachment 1) presented testimony in opposition of HCR 5004, documenting web sites (<http://www.khou.com/vifeo/index.html?nvic=315146> and <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2008/12/prweb1704434.htm>), urging people to research facts on slaughter and inhumane treatment of horses shipped during transport and throughout the slaughter process.

Mary Pruitt, Lawrence, Kansas, (Attachment 2) spoke in opposition of HCR 5004, stating Americans do not eat horses and do not support the slaughter of horses for food. Ms. Pruitt further stated equine slaughter is never humane and is not an acceptable alternative for irresponsible breeders or owners unwilling to meet their ownership obligations, or wanting to make a few dollars at the expense of great animal suffering.

Opponents providing written testimony in opposition of HCR 5004:

Becky Meyer, Silver Lake, Kansas (Attachment 3)  
Lou Guyton, Regional Director, The Humane Society of the United States (Attachment 4)

**Proponents:**

Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), (Attachment 5) presented testimony in support of HCR 5004, stating the position of the KLA is that livestock owners should provide proper care and nutrition for their animals, and believe that livestock (including horses) are private property. Mr. Beam further stated federal policies that prohibit livestock owners from transporting or selling unwanted horses are a violation of property rights.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture And Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Brad Harrelson, State Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau, (Attachment 6) spoke in support of **HCR 5004**, documenting that legally, horses are considered livestock, not pets, and believes this is a reasonable and compassionate alternative to what is being suggested.

Tom Davies, Board of Directors, Kansas Quarter Horse Association (KQHA), (Attachment 7) presented testimony in support of **HCR 5004**, and the KQHA's position that first and foremost its concern is with the treatment of all animals, including horses. Mr. Davies further stated there has to be a balance with animals and while horses are not raised for meat purposes, all livestock is harvested one way or another, and KQHA feels this Resolution is the best choice for the sake of the horses.

Jennifer Long-Hermesch, Diamond H Quarter Horses & Associates, (Attachment 8) spoke in support of **HCR 5004**, stating that with any economic rule you have supply and demand and if you have more supply than demand, then it crumbles as in this case. Additionally, if this bill does not pass, it further jeopardizes the ability not only for people to show or to rodeo but to make a living with their horses.

Pattie Stalder, Administrator, Kansas Horse Council, (Attachment 9) presented testimony in support of **HCR 5004**, documenting this Resolution would be an effective tool to oppose the Burton-Conyers House Bill 503 which interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

Christine Mensch, FoxEye Ranch, (Attachment 10) spoke in support of **HCR 5004**, stating better regulation and supervision of slaughter in the U.S. makes more sense than criminalizing transport and eliminating a necessary and financially feasible method of disposal.

Proponents providing written testimony in favor of **HCR 5004**:

Ed and Kristy McKechnie, American Quarter Horse Association (Attachment 11)

Raymond, Diann, Scott, Steven, Brad and Blake Tucker, Tucker Quarter Horses (Attachment 12)

Donn Teske, President, Kansas Farmers Union (Attachment 13)

No questions were asked or comments made.

The hearing was closed on **HCR 5004**.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

# AG. & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-9-09

NAME	REPRESENTING
Sandy Bryant Parker	Ks Quarter Horse Assn
Jennifer Long-Hermesch	Diamond H Quarter Horses & Associates
John A. Donley	KS Lust. Ass'n
Brad Harrison	KFB
Aurora Ford	Fox Eye Ranch
Leslie Kaufman	Ks Co-op Council
Caree Can	Shooting Star Rescue
Mary Beavitt	self

Position: Oppose

**Resolution urging the US Congress to oppose federal legislation to ban the slaughter of horses and the transport of horses for slaughter**

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to express my opposition to HCR 5004.

For well over 30 years, the U.S. Horse slaughter industry had the opportunity to create a humane way to slaughter horses. However, since the industry miserably failed and the public demanded that the cruelty stop, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals closed the last U.S. horse slaughter plant in 2007. Over 70 % of Americans polled oppose horse slaughter. The majority are appalled upon hearing that our horses are slaughtered for human consumption and shipped overseas as a delicacy selling for upwards of \$ 20 per lb.

Now, there is a movement among the pro-slaughter folks to re-open U.S. horse slaughter plants. However, rather than re-opening the U.S. horse slaughter plants, I believe it is time for accountability from horse owners regarding responsible ownership and breeding. Currently, there is absolutely no incentive for responsible behavior because owners have a financial incentive for irresponsibility. That is, owners get paid by slaughter industry meat buyers when they no longer want their horses. Thus, owners have no need to worry about over-breeding, responsible care, and humane euthanasia. Irresponsible owners currently have the easy and lucrative incentive of selling their animals to a meat buyer for horse slaughter. According to the USDA, more U.S. horses were shipped to slaughter in 2008 than when U.S. horse slaughter plants were open in 2007. However, the pro-slaughter side would have you believe that there is an "unwanted" horse problem in the U.S. because the U.S. horse slaughter plants closed.

As a citizen of our state, I am asking you to please review the news report link below and the FOIA documents recently obtained from the USDA prior to making your decision about supporting HCR 5004. The FOIA documents and news report is proof positive that the horse slaughter industry, as it existed in the U.S. or as it currently exists in other countries, is anything but humane.

Below, is a link for a recent report by Houston reporter Bob Woodard. He has reported on the horse slaughter industry for years and in this report he reveals facts indicating that U.S. slaughter houses were no more humane than Mexican or Canadian horse slaughter houses. In particular, there are photographs from the USDA included in the video which were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act:

<http://www.khou.com/video/index.html?nvid=315146>

Below are the documents released under the Freedom of Information Act. This is clear evidence that was released December 4, 2008 from the USDA and reveals that U.S. horse slaughter was inhumane even though it was supervised by USDA inspectors:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2008/12/prweb1704434.htm>

I ask you to please educate yourselves on the facts of slaughter and the documented inhumane treatment of horses shipped during transport and throughout the slaughter process. I urge you to oppose bill HCR 5004.

Careen Cain,

Shooting Star Stables and Equine Rescue, Inc.



Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-09-09  
Attachment 1

Testimony  
to  
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
on  
H.C.R. No. 5004

Mary Prewitt  
Lawrence, KS  
(785) 766-0260

February 9, 2009.

Chairman Powell and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to address you on House Concurrent Resolution No. 5004. I am the owner of three horses, two over the age of 25 years. Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to work with a couple of equine rescues in Kansas. Last fall, I and the directors of these two rescues conducted a course in equine neglect for the annual conference of the Kansas Animal Control Association. I would like to ask you to oppose this resolution which is based on flawed premises and is counter to our values as Americans.

Americans do not eat horses and do not support the slaughter of horses for food. In our country, horses are companion animals, not food animals. Responsible horse owners, like responsible dog and cat owners, realize that taking responsibility for a horse is a life long commitment that comes with the obligation to care for the animal in its old age and to humanely euthanize it should the need arise. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society of the United States and numerous other humane organizations, as well as many sport horse and breed organizations, uniformly oppose equine slaughter as an alternative for owners who are unwilling or unable to fulfill their commitment to their equine companion. Americans in general (over 70%) oppose horse slaughter for foreign meat markets as much as they would oppose canine slaughter for foreign meat markets as a means of "disposing" of "surplus domestic" animals.

Facts do not support the notion that the end of horse slaughter in this country resulted in a glut of unwanted or unusable horses. Before the Illinois slaughter house was shuttered, it was importing horses from Canada for slaughter. USDA statistics show that 92% of the horses sent to slaughter are in good condition and able to lead productive lives. In California, where equine slaughter was banned in 1998, there has been no corresponding increase in cruelty and neglect cases. On the contrary, the rate of horse theft fell by 34%.

Rumors of horses being abandoned in large numbers simply have not been substantiated. In the past two years, while working with humane organizations state-wide, I have not heard of a single incident of horse abandonment in the state of Kansas. On the contrary, I know of at least one Kansas equine rescue that routinely purchases horses from a kill buyer, rehabilitates and then places them in loving adoptive homes. While reported incidents of equine neglect may have risen in Kansas over the last few years, this increase appears to be due to the increased cost of hay and care in a declining economy, not the absence of a slaughter market, which in fact has

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-09-09  
Attachment 2

To- The Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Regarding House Concurrent Resolution No. 5004  
February 5, 2009

As a resident of Kansas, I am writing to express opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 5004.

Several incorrect facts are stated in the resolution.

The statement about increased abandonment and starving animals as well as the unwanted/surplus statement are both disputed in studies, specifically one titled **The relationship between horse slaughter and reported cases of abuse and neglect** by John Holland.

The statement about the loss of secondary markets and the subsequent drop in price simply has me baffled. While all horse slaughtering facilities are currently shut down in the USA, you can still find kill buyers, even within the state of Kansas, willing to buy horses to ship to slaughter in Mexico and Canada. The market is not gone as the resolution states it is.

As for the drop in prices, I cannot think of a single luxury item, and horses are basically a luxury, that has not dropped in price in these very challenging economic times. To tie the slaughter of horses to the drop in price, and to state that a market is lost when it isn't are misstatements. When demand decreases, prices drop. People are struggling to put food on the table for their children right now, and have little interest in buying a horse that they have to feed as well.

Regulated slaughter does not ensure humane handling. This has been documented by HBO, CBS and NBC in several news clips and specials, as well as individuals filming at slaughter facilities.

Horses are not meant for food. We inject them with vaccines, wormers and medications that are not meant to enter the food chain. The wonderful large animal facility at KSU has 2 designated entrances. One is for Food Animals, the other is for Equines. Each is clearly labeled. Our own fine university recognizes that horses are simply not meant to be eaten. I eat beef, I eat pork, I eat chicken. I am not a vegetarian trying to prohibit eating all meat. I am only addressing the horse.

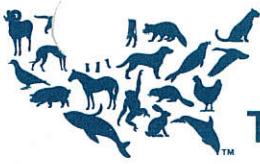
Slaughter friendly states have not fared well in the public eye of the nation in past years. Nationwide, extremely negative attention was focused on the slaughter facility in Kaufman, TX, and the Cavel plant in Illinois prior to their closure. In the fight for federal legislation to protect the horse, our state is quickly getting a black eye, by presenting a pro horse slaughter stance. Please consider dropping Resolution No 5004.

Thank you all very much for your time.

*Becky Meyer*

Becky Meyer  
Silver Lake, KS

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-09-09  
Attachment 3



# THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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**Testimony by:** Lou Guyton  
**In Opposition to:** HCR 5004  
**Committee:** Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
**Date:** February 9, 2009

My name is Lou Guyton and I am the Regional Director for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization with over 10.5 million members and constituents. On behalf of the more than 67,000 members and constituents who reside in the state of Kansas, I am submitting testimony in opposition to HCR 5004 which requests the Kansas Congressional Delegation and the Congress of the United States to support horse processing facilities. We urge the Committee to oppose this legislation.

The horse is a beloved icon in America – much like the bald eagle, a symbol of our freedom, our independence, and our heritage as a nation. Our country was built (and many of our conflicts won) on the backs of horses. Never have they been part of our diet. Today, we raise horses for work, for sport, for pleasure – not for dinner. Americans do not want their horses eaten, any more than they want dogs, cats or other animals that are raised to be our companions to be eaten.

In the past several years, all horse slaughter plants in the United States have been shuttered. No horses slaughtered for food in the U.S. were consumed by residents of the United States. Instead, it is sent to France, Belgium, Germany, and Japan. Simply put – the foreign-owned companies are slaughtering our horses—animals never bred or raised for this purpose in America.

The lack of horse slaughter facilities in this country has not led to horses being abandoned or neglected. When California banned horse slaughter in 1998, it saw no rise in horse cruelty or neglect, but did document a 34% drop in horse theft.

Despite claims that horses slaughtered are old, sick, or lame, this is not the case. Many horses were unknowingly sold to slaughter, while some are stolen and sold for a profit. "Killer buyers" and slaughterhouse operators would like you to believe that they are performing a service to these horses by slaughtering them. They claim that the horses they slaughtered were old and past recovery and had arrived there legally. In truth, some small number of horses may be sick or injured because of neglect but the vast majority are sound and in good health. USDA statistics show that 92.3% of all horses slaughtered were in good condition – meaning these horses would have gone to new owners where they could live productive lives if they were not purchased by killer buyers doing the bidding

*Celebrating Animals, Confronting Cruelty*

Ag & Natural Resources Committee

Date 2-09-09

Attachment 4

of foreign diners. These animals were purchased by opportunistic buyers who out-bid families and horse brokers, for good, sound horses that could have served as companion animals. Instead of finding homes, these horses wound up at the slaughter plant, destined for restaurants overseas.

Horses, by their very nature, respond to hostile and frightening environments by trying to flee. For this reason, they cannot reliably be slaughtered in a humane fashion. While federal law is supposed to require that horses are rendered unconscious prior to slaughter, usually with a captive bolt pistol (which shoots a metal rod into the horse's brain), undercover footage has shown that horses were not stunned and are kicking and conscious when they were shackled and hoisted by a rear leg to have their throats cut. Horses respond to fear by throwing their head, making such live dismemberment an inevitability. Horse slaughter cannot be made humane, due to the very nature of horses. In addition, conditions in the slaughterhouse are stressful and frightening for horses. A set of documents we obtained through the Freedom of Information Act demonstrates that the U.S. horse slaughterhouses had problems with employees whipping horses across the face with fiberglass rods, horses flipping over backward because of such whipping and injuring their heads, and the use of long bull-whips in the holding pen. Other problems included the failure to provide water to horses in holding pens because of a fear that the watering system would freeze. Government observers characterized these incidents as "egregious humane handling" problems. Death at the slaughterhouse can never be characterized as "euthanasia" and is not a humane end for horses.

For these many reasons, we urge the Committee to oppose this pro-horse slaughter resolution.





*Since 1894*

## TESTIMONY

To: The House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
Rep. Larry Powell, Chairperson

From: Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President

Date: February 9, 2009

Subject: **House Concurrent Resolution 5004**  
*A concurrent resolution by the Kansas Legislature urging the United States Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.*

*The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing approximately 5,500 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf and stocker production, cattle feeding, dairy production, grazing land management and diversified farming operations.*

The Kansas Livestock Association supports HCR 5004. Our members have opposed several proposals in the U.S. Congress to prohibit the ethical and humane harvesting of horses through licensed, government regulated horse processing facilities. While a legislative ban on the processing of horses has yet to become law, legislation prohibiting federal funding for government inspectors has created an effective ban on this needed service in the United States. (*Attachment A is a summary of federal legislation introduced in 2007-2009.*)

Prior to the closure of horse slaughter facilities in the United States, approximately 100,000 horses were processed for export and/or use in animal feed stuffs in the United States. This marketing avenue provided an economic and humane outlet for unwanted horses and provided a base price for horse owners.

Other conferees will provide real life experiences of how the loss of the horse processing industry has impacted their economic livelihood.

We believe that livestock owners should provide proper care and nutrition for their animals, but we also believe that livestock (including horses) are private property. Federal policies that prohibit livestock owners from transporting or selling unwanted horses are a violation of property rights.

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
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Attachment 5

Furthermore, prohibiting the processing of horses creates increased instances of horse abuse and abandonment. Until public or private funds are available to purchase and care for unwanted horses, we believe the only alternative is to allow horse owners to market their horses for processing.

A federal policy that prohibits horse processing is merely exacerbating the economic challenges to horse owners and will lead to more abuse and neglect of horses in this country.

It appears there is little the Kansas Legislature can do about this situation, except to send a message to Washington DC that it is imperative to reject future laws and regulations that prohibit the humane processing of unwanted horses.

The Kansas Livestock Association urges this committee to pass HCR 5004.

Thanks you.

Overview of federal legislation in 2007, 2008 & 2009

(provided by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association)

February 3, 2009

**109<sup>th</sup> Congress HR 503 passed the House; no action in the Senate**

**H.R.503** : To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Rep Sweeney, John E. [NY-20] (introduced 2/1/2005) **Cosponsors** (203)

**Committees:** House Energy and Commerce; House Agriculture

**House Reports:** 109-617 Part 1

**Latest Major Action:** 9/21/2006 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 631.

**H.RES.981** : Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 503) to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Rep Diaz-Balart, Lincoln [FL-21] (introduced 9/6/2006) **Cosponsors** (None)

**Committees:** House Rules

**House Reports:** 109-642

**Latest Major Action:** 9/7/2006 Passed/agreed to in House. Status: On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 351 - 40 (Roll no. 430).

**110<sup>th</sup> Congress The below bills were introduced but were not brought before the full House/Senate**

**H.R.6598** : To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

**Sponsor:** Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14] (introduced 7/24/2008) **Cosponsors** (124)

**Committees:** House Judiciary; House Agriculture

**House Reports:** 110-901 Part 1

**Latest Major Action:** 10/3/2008 House Committee on Agriculture Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Jan. 3, 2009.

**H.R.503** : To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9] (introduced 1/17/2007) **Cosponsors** (206)

**Committees:** House Energy and Commerce; House Agriculture

**Latest Major Action:** 3/2/2007 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

**S.311** : A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Sen Landrieu, Mary L. [LA] (introduced 1/17/2007) **Cosponsors** (38)

**Committees:** Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation

**Senate Reports:** 110-229

**Latest Major Action:** 11/14/2007 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 488.

**111<sup>th</sup> Congress: two bills introduced**

**H.R.305** : To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

**Sponsor:** Rep Kirk, Mark Steven [IL-10] (introduced 1/8/2009)      Cosponsors (11)

**Committees:** House Transportation and Infrastructure

**Latest Major Action:** 1/8/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

**H.R.503** : To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain conduct relating to the use of horses for human consumption.

**Sponsor:** Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14] (introduced 1/14/2009)      Cosponsors (78)

**Committees:** House Judiciary

**Latest Major Action:** 1/14/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

\*\* keep in mind the 111<sup>th</sup> HR 503 removes the provision that the Attorney General shall provide humane treatment, etc for the horses.

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.

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## 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. HINCHIEY, 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 LOPGREN 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. SIERRANO, 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

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## A BILL

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the "Prevention of Equine  
3 Cruelty Act of 2009".

4 **SEC. 2. SLAUGHTER OF HORSES FOR HUMAN CONSUMP-**  
5 **TION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 18, United  
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 **"§ 50. Slaughter of horses for human consumption**

10 "(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), whoever  
11 knowingly—

12 "(1) possesses, ships, transports, purchases,  
13 sells, delivers, or receives, in or affecting interstate  
14 commerce or foreign commerce, any horse with the  
15 intent that it is to be slaughtered for human con-  
16 sumption; or

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

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

24 "(b) If—

1           “(1) the defendant engages in conduct that  
2 would otherwise constitute an offense under sub-  
3 section (a);

4           “(2) the defendant has no prior conviction  
5 under this section; and

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

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

12          “(c) As used in this section, the term ‘horse’ means  
13 any member of the family Equidae.”.

14          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
15 for chapter 3 of title 18, United States Code, is amended  
16 by adding at the end the following new item:

“50. Slaughter of horses for human consumption.”.

○

***Kansas Farm Bureau***  
***POLICY STATEMENT***

**House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

***HCR 5004***

**RE: Transport and processing of horses.**

**February 4, 2009**

**Submitted by:**

**Brad Harrelson**

**KFB State Policy Director**

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Chairman Powell and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director for Kansas Farm Bureau. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

We appear before you today in strong support of HCR 5004 which would put the state of Kansas clearly on record in support of the ability of animal agriculture to transport and process equines.

Horses have long played a vital role in American agriculture. Today farmers and ranchers continue to rely on horses to help with daily tasks. Horses are also used by some for recreational purposes and as pets. The close working relationship between the rider and his or her horse has resulted in a large percentage of the U.S. population perceiving equines as pets rather than livestock. This perception has inspired animal rights activists, celebrities and average citizens to rally in support of a ban on equine processing. But, legally, horses are considered livestock, not pets (U.S. Congress, 2002).

The direct and indirect economic effects of banning equine processing or transport for human consumption are substantial. Proponents have not addressed the inevitable costs of such a ban, and they have offered no alternative. Researchers from six U.S. universities concluded the following would result from a ban on either transport or processing of horses:

*Kansas Farm Bureau represents grass roots agriculture. Established in 1919,  
this non-profit advocacy organization supports farm families who earn their  
living in a changing industry.*

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- Horse owners will realize a direct effect from lower horse sale prices;
- Local and state governments will be adversely impacted by increased costs of regulation and care of unwanted or neglected horses;
- Public animal rescue facilities are currently saturated with unwanted horses, and no funding has been allocated to manage a large increase in horses that will likely become the responsibility of these facilities; and
- Eliminating the possibility of selling a horse for processing is estimated to decrease the value of all U.S. horses by \$304 per horse.

Proponents of these efforts rely solely, but effectively, on emotional arguments. Opponents have abundant science on their side, but it has been difficult to translate those facts in a manner that resonates with the public.

The American Veterinary Medical Association ([www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)) has two accepted methods of euthanasia for horses, one of which is the method used at processing facilities "resulting in an immediate, painless and humane death." Not only is equine processing an approved method of euthanasia, according to AVMA and the American Association of Equine Practitioners ([www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org)), but the entire process is monitored and inspected by the Agriculture Department for food safety and animal welfare compliance.

Several research-based studies have concluded that equine processing is humane and actually prevents animal neglect. Last year, economists from Cal Poly, Texas A&M, Utah State, West Texas A&M, the University of Louisville and the University of California conducted a comprehensive review of the potential consequences of a ban on equine processing. A Colorado State University study found there would be an increase in equines transported to "Mexico or underground markets," thus the horse slaughter plants "should be encouraged to remain open." They also found that a ban on equine processing "will increase the number of horses which will die from neglect," concluding that "tens of thousands of horses could be neglected."

Our members across Kansas and the nation understand the unique historical importance of horses and their modern day role not only production agriculture but also in recreational pursuits. We also understand and make substantial efforts to ensure that each of our animals is healthy and well cared for. After all, healthy, productive animals provide our members with the best chance of ensuring that their operations are profitable and that their products are safe and of the highest quality. We also believe that at the end of the day, providing high quality care includes a safe and humane method of euthanasia for all animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this important topic. We urge your strong support for the resolution before you today.

The Kansas Quarter Horse Association, along with the American Quarter Horse Association, is first and foremost concerned with the humane treatment of all animals, including horses. We feel that all animals should be treated with dignity, respect and compassion.

Unwanted horses represent a group of horses within the domestic equine population that are no longer needed or useful, or their owners are no longer interested in or capable of providing financial or physical care. In many cases the horses are infirm or dangerous; they may be old, sick, have behavior problems or fail to meet their owner's expectations.

While estimated numbers vary, it is believed that there are as many as 100,000 unwanted horses in the US. Current options for "unwanted horses" are change of use, rescue/retirement facilities, adoption, and donations to teaching hospitals, abandonment, neglect or euthanasia. Some unwanted horses are sent to processing facilities. Fewer are euthanized by a veterinarian and disposed of through rendering. Most are simply abandoned and left to die of natural causes.

The estimated cost of providing *basic* care for a horse ranges from \$1,800 - \$2,400 annually. There are not enough volunteers, funding or placement opportunities for all of the unwanted horses.

The average fee for euthanasia by a veterinarian is \$66. The fee does not include carcass disposal. Approved methods of carcass disposal include burial (illegal in many places) rendering and incineration. Fees range from \$75 -\$250 for rendering, and up to \$2000 for incineration. If only half of the unwanted horses (50,000) were euthanized, those 50,000 carcasses would equal around 55 MILLION pounds. Where would we even dispose of 55 million pounds of dead carcasses? Those who would have us believe that euthanasia is a viable option have not considered the biological hazard that all of those euthanized horses would create.

The 50,000 horses that would be left would represent from \$90,000,000 - \$120,000,000 PER YEAR to care for. It is not uncommon for horses to live well into their 20's and 30's. Who will be responsible for paying for the upkeep on these horses?

While in a perfect world owners would all take excellent care of every horse and care for it throughout its natural life span, ours is not perfect world. Many of the horses that previously went to slaughter were not sweet kind family pets, but horses that had, or were on the verge of, injuring people. Some were un-trainable, many were lame or blind. Owners who had the resources to adequately care for a horse generally chose to support one that could be ridden or used in some manner. At the current time, many owners, unable to send their horses to a sale that ultimately may have taken the horses to a processing plant, simply dump their horses on the side of a road. Or leave them in a back pasture and one day find that the horse has died of natural causes, or rather, starvation.

Those horses that are going through sale barns are often being sent to Mexico for processing, where there are fewer regulations for humane processing procedures. A horse that two years ago would have brought \$1,000.00 at a local sale barn will now often only bring \$100-\$200. Some sell for as little as \$5. So many horses have been left unclaimed at sales, that most sale barns now charge an up-front fee prior to allowing the horse in the sale barn, to try to discourage owner's simply "dumping" horses at the sale, and driving away.

The Unwanted Horse Coalition was formed to educate the equine world about the issue, and to help educate owners how to "own responsibly". Stopping over breeding is a large part of this education, but even with selective breeding, there will always be unwanted animals.

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While many of those trying to pass this legislation find the thought of eating horse meat repugnant, please remember that during World War II, with meat in short supply, many Americans ate horse meat. Horse meat was sold for human consumption throughout the 1970's and 80's, with many Americans preferring horse meat to beef. It might also be pointed out that in some cultures; the cow is sacred, with the mere thought of eating beef a totally horrific thought. Other cultures and religions consider pork to be a forbidden food.

While horse meat has been a delicacy in many European countries, we should keep in mind that there are many starving nations, where the 55 million pounds of half of the unwanted horses would sustain tremendous populations.

All livestock falls under laws pertaining to humane care and treatment. Horses are not pets, they are livestock. Livestock must be fed and watered, and not be subject to abuse and misuse. As long as an owner is caring for his livestock, it is his possession to use and dispose of as he or she chooses. While horses are not raised for meat purposes, all livestock is harvested in one way or another. That is their purpose. A horse may fulfill a useful purpose as a riding animal, a race horse, or a ranch horse. When the animal can no longer fulfill that purpose, then the further harvesting of that animal only makes sense.

In summation, the Kansas Quarter Horse Association is a strong proponent of House Resolution 5004, as we feel this is the best choice for the sake of the horses.

General information and sales statistics presented by Diamond H Quarter Horses & Associates Annual Performance Production Sale for the years of 2003 to 2008.

- Diamond H Quarter Horses & Associates Performance Production Sale is held once each year during the month of September in Winfield, KS.
- The demographic this sale markets to primarily falls into two groups, 1) Ranching/Agricultural ; 2) Recreational.
- The annual average number of horses offered for purchase through this venue is 100 head.
- These horses are sold by breeders and horse trainers.
- The horses offered range in ages from weaned animals with an approximate age of six months on up.
- All horses are required to sell with both a current negative Coggins test and State Health certificate.
- All horses are inspected by the sale management to verify the outward appearance of clean and healthy animal. Any horses not found to be acceptable in health and/or appearance are dispelled from the facility prior to the start of the sale.
- Costs incurred by each seller; consignment fee- \$185 per head, Coggins testing, State Health certificate, Registration costs for each registered animal = Average total cost per animal \$255

Financial Statistics

<u>Year</u>	<u># Head Consigned</u>	<u># of head which SOLD*</u>	<u>Total Sale Proceeds</u>	<u>Avg. Price per Head</u>
2003	93	71	\$ 68,224.00	\$960.00
2004	121	90	\$79,200.00	\$880.00
2005	134	87	\$74,385.00	\$855.00
2006	94	86	\$146,919.00	\$1,708.00
2007	122	68	\$32,500.00	\$477.00
2008	73	49	\$34,790.00	\$610.00

In 2006 the high selling horse of the sale was a yearling gelding consigned by the White Ranch, Caney KS the horse commanded a price of \$16,000 and sold to O'Neill Ranch of Alma, KS. This is just one example of \$16,000 of revenue that stayed within the state ranching industry. Other ranch geldings that sold on that day sold for as much as \$7,800 also bringing in revenue to the Kansas ranching industry.

As you can see from the figures above, a mere one year later prices of horses bred the same way and with very similar training had difficulty in commanding even a \$500 price tag. This is a direct result of and is in evidence to the closing of US equine slaughter facilities. The industry is without a "base" for its price structure and the basic supply and demand economic rule comes into play. With a surplus of unused horses there is a significantly lessened demand.

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My name is Pattie Stalder and I am here to ask you to support House Concurrent Resolution No. 5004.

My husband and I have a small farm in Pottawatomie County where we raise Connemara Ponies. I am also here as the Administrator of the Kansas Horse Council which was founded in 1992 to provide information, education and protection for all horses and horse owners in Kansas.

We strongly support Resolution No. 5004 as it clearly articulates our concerns regarding the horse transportation issue. We believe it will be an effective tool to oppose the Burton-Conyers House Bill 503 which interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

We are here today expressly because we have a deep affinity for horses and their welfare and also in support of the thousands of Kansans involved in the horse industry.

This is a common sense issue. Unfortunately when Bo Derek, T. Boone Pickens, Willie Nelson and other celebrities were brought on board by the Humane Society of the United States, common sense went out the window. What was their plan for the horses whose lives previously ended at one of the three processing facilities in the U.S.? Only 1-2% of the domestic equine population ever goes to a processing facility and this number is going down not up.

Where is the HSUS plan or the HSUS staff that will care for the approximately 100,000 "unwanted" horses? The answer is that neither a plan nor an organization exists to care for them. In an effort to appease the advocacy groups, haven't the legislators in support of legislation banning slaughter completely ignored the welfare of the unwanted horse by not assuring there is an infrastructure in place to care for these horses? Many seem to believe that if slaughter is banned, the problem will go away. And as for the issue of human consumption of horse meat, I believe it only matters to us and not the horse, what happens to them when they are gone.

The warm, fuzzy feeling the HSUS created in some individuals that got these plants closed was short lived and short sighted and now horses across the United States are suffering the consequences caused by this organizational wolf in sheep's clothing. Slow starvation or being abandoned on public lands to fend for themselves has become the fate of thousands of horses because there aren't nearly enough rescue facilities to accommodate the numbers in need. It would be difficult to get an accurate count of how many rescue facilities there are just in Kansas because they aren't regulated. There are no state or federal guidelines for operations.

The Kansas Horse Council is receiving calls with increasing frequency regarding horses that have been abandoned. For example, a woman who purchased some horse acreage agreed to allow one of the previous owner's horses to stay on the property with hers until he could find another place to keep it. Six months later not only was the horse still there but he is so aggressive that she can't allow her children to enter the pasture and she suffered a broken arm after being run over by the horse. This is a perfect example of an "unwanted" horse. His owner obviously doesn't want him; the woman doesn't have the skills, time or money to rehabilitate him so who is going to pay for his rehabilitation? Where is the HSUS in this scenario? This is an "unwanted" horse that in the past would have been sent to an auction with the warning that he is

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unsafe and most likely would have ended up at one of the processing facilities. How can this be considered a crime? Yet, without opposition to Burton-Conyers HB 503 Prevention of Cruelty to Equines Act, it will be.

Our nation's zoos experienced another unforeseen consequence of the closing of these facilities when they lost their source for horse meat for their big cats, which now has to be imported. Ironic isn't it? Again, it goes back to common sense. Horses are livestock and as such are private property. Closing every processing plant in this country by making it illegal "to ship, transport, move, deliver, receive, possess, purchase, sell or donate a horse or other equine to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for any other purpose" just makes no sense.

So our horses are being outsourced just like so many other American jobs. As we all know, Canada and Mexico now receive American horses for processing. The end of life treatment some horses receive in Mexico is savage and brutal as evidenced by televised video tape of one Mexican facility. As stated in House Concurrent Resolution No. 5004 "Issues related to the humane handling and slaughter of surplus domestic horses are best addressed by proper regulations and inspection and not by banning or exporting the issue."

On behalf of the Kansas Horse Council, I urge you to support Resolution No. 5004 and send a message to Washington DC that Kansas is opposed to any further attempts to prohibit horse slaughter or regulate horse transportation.

Thank you.

In support of the House Concurrent Resolution # 5004 by the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
In opposition to the Burton-Conyers House bill #503, short-titled "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009"

As an avid horse-lover I should immediately be taken with this title- of course I want to prevent cruelty to horses. But when you look closely at the Burton-Conyers Bill it doesn't have anything to do with cruelty-it has to do with governing your right to control the ownership and transportation of your horses. It is designed to criminally punish, by fines and imprisonment, anyone involved with an equine going to a slaughter plant, even if it's outside the borders of the United States.

The Burton-Conyers Bill is an addendum to the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act which eliminated the option of slaughter in the U.S. This bill would now eliminate the option of sale or transport into Canada or Mexico.

That leaves the Burton-Conyers Bill as a direct attack on an owner's right to sell, transport or dispose of his own livestock. It puts the state in a position of punitive action against anyone involved. In effect it makes it a criminal offense for a livestock owner to determine the use and transportation of their products. It's an infringement on our personal property rights.

It is an unfortunate BUT very real fact- there are too many horses. Horses lame, unbroken, elderly, dangerous or belonging to owners who can no longer manage their care and upkeep. There is no place for all these animals. I genuinely wish there was a lush pasture with an apple tree by a running stream for all of them to retire to.....and someone to de-worm them, vaccinate them, trim their hooves, bandage their wounds and deal with their inevitable death.

The glut of horses, as evidenced by over-run rescue operations, free horses on Craigslist, abandoned horses on public lands and a reported increase in starved and neglected abuse cases, painfully points out there needs to be other options available.

There are 180,000 horses just in Kansas- with no realistic, cost-effective, readily available method of disposal.

When we discuss options for "unwanted horses"- unwanted is a broad term- ill, lame, sterile, dangerous, elderly, or owners whose current financial situation makes feed and care impossible - all are reasons for end of life decisions.

Sale or ownership changes are limited for ill or unsound horses. Their marketability is greatly diminished.

Donating to therapeutic riding programs demand that horses be calm, well-mannered and in useable health.

Giving horses to collegiate riding programs usually requires they be young healthy stock with no lameness or health issues.

Donating to veterinary colleges for research or anatomy studies is an option.

Rescue and/or Retirement farms are wonderful, but current reports show overwhelmed, under-funded and over-loaded facilities.

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## *Horse Creek Ranch Quarter Horses*

Arcadia, Kansas

February 9, 2009

### **Please support HR 5004**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Ed McKechnie and with my wife, Kristy, we own Horse Creek Ranch Quarter Horses located in Arcadia, KS. I regret that I cannot be with you today, but when this hearing was rescheduled I already had another appointment in Austin, Texas.

My family has been in the Quarter Horse business for 60 years. During that time, we have focused on raising foals, teaching them to be halter-trained, and with a few we would train with 60-90 days of riding. This has been a good family business that our entire family is involved with on a daily business.

However, there are on-going efforts to destroy the equine industry in Kansas and the United States. Let me give you some facts about the impact of these efforts on Kansas.

In 2005 there were 91,602 Quarter Horses in Kansas with 25,635 owners. In 2008, those numbers had dropped to 87,694 Quarter Horses with 22,921 owners. Those are decreases of 4% for horses, and a decrease of 10% of horse owners. I believe these decreases will continue in 2009.

Clearly policies that are attempting to limit the ability of horse owners to buy, sell and humanely transport horses are negatively impacting the equine industry.

Horses that five years ago sold for \$1,000 or \$1,500 bring next to nothing today if you can sell them at all. This not only impacts the equine owners, but also all of the other businesses that rely on sales of equine products. Not to mention the impacts on the number of Kansans that can no longer afford to buy a horse because the re-sale value of the horse has been destroyed.

What HR 5004 encourages, is the ability for states, not the federal government, to manage the transportation of horses.

This issue has been raised, due to the efforts of people that do not understand the economics of horse breeding and their efforts to restrain the sale of horses to facilities that can handle end of life decisions for an equine owning family.

I also serve on the American Quarter Horse Association public policy committee, and I am attaching our statement regarding this issue.

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Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, end of life issues are never easy at any level of a discussion. But the facilities that process equines, provides a floor for the price of equines in this country. We have had to use this service for a horse that had neurological issues, and was un-safe and tended to rare-up and throw himself backwards, and for a filly that was severely sight impaired.

Both horses were more than 1,000 pounds and both, at different times, were a danger to themselves, other horses and most importantly, humans. Sending them to an appropriate facility allowed us to remove this danger from our ranch and receive minimal compensation that allowed us to reinvest in our business through the breeding of other horses and into our facilities. This provided the equine industry with a floor for pricing and allowed any family, that had to face any type of challenge, a way to dispose of their horse in a humane and economical way.

Today there is no way to dispose of an equine in this manner in the United States. There is no floor for the pricing of horses, and the declines in numbers of equines in Kansas area direct result of this problem. In fact if we were faced with this issue today, we would have to euthanize the horse on our own property and then pay someone to remove them.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, HR 5004 will accurately express the position of the Kansas Quarter Horse industry to our Congressional Delegation, and we ask you to recommend it favorably for passage.

Contact information:

Ed and Kristy McKechnie  
1124 N. 250<sup>th</sup>  
Arcadia, KS 66711

(620) 638-4469 – Home  
(620) 232-4184 – Cell

**2008 STATEMENT OF POSITION**  
**H.R. 503, S. 311 & H.R. 6598 (2008 Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act)**

First and foremost, the American Quarter Horse Association unequivocally supports the humane treatment of horses and vigorous enforcement of reasonable state and federal laws intended for that purpose.

It is this fervent dedication to the welfare of the horse that drives AQHA to address the difficult issues related to humane care, transportation and disposition of all breeds of horses.

Therefore, AQHA supports and joins with the Unwanted Horse Coalition whose mission is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education, and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety, and responsible care and disposition of these horses.

End-of-life issues for horses are personal and should remain the right of the individual horse owner.

AQHA opposes abolishing the option of horse processing until there are provisions to take care of the 80,000 to 100,000 horses that meet that end each year. Consistent with positions established by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and American Veterinary Medical Association, AQHA supports the humane, USDA supervised end-of-life process as a much better option than starvation, neglect or inhumane treatment inside or outside of the United States.

To date, no proposed state or federal law has addressed funding of care for unwanted horses, long-term placement of affected horses or established guidelines for standards of care at retirement and rescue facilities. Failing to address these core issues adversely affects the welfare of horses.

Additionally, horses as livestock are personal property protected under the United States Constitution. Any law that would result in "taking" of personal property without just compensation or valid purpose is a violation of an individual's constitutional rights. Furthermore, it is a violation of the Commerce Clause to unreasonably restrict interstate trade of property.

Therefore, AQHA continues to oppose the provisions of state or federal legislation intended to: (a) prohibit the humane end-of-life processing of horses; and (b) prohibit the humane transport of horses within the United States that may be destined to processing plants.

RE: House Concurrent Resolution #5004

As life-time residents and four generations of family ranchers in Kansas, I urge you to press forward with House Concurrent Resolution #5004. The federal government should not be dictating the rights of individual States regarding the transportation and processing of horses.

The current ban of horse slaughter has been a devastating blow to the already declining economy. In 2005, horse slaughter plants produced more than \$26 million dollars in direct revenue. The current federal regulations banning horse slaughter have resulted in loss of export revenue, loss of jobs, and an increase in price of products when other products must be imported and other additives and products substituted due to the loss of available horse products. With current regulations, the U. S. is importing leather hides for use in boots, shoes, purses and coats. We have lost jobs related to the horse slaughter industry and then pay increased prices to import those same products.

U. S. Department of Agriculture statistics show that approximately 657,000 horses perish each year from natural causes, sometimes dying a slow, painful death. Only about 95,000 horses per year were being slaughtered in the U. S. These horses were being humanely destroyed, not lingering over a long period of time, and their remains made useful and productive in the economy. In a country where "recycling" is constantly in the news, allowing horse slaughter is a form of recycling, whereby these horses that are no longer useful can be recycled into dog and zoo food additives, leathers, etc. They do have "salvage value" that is important to our economy.

Some horses are simply dangerous and should be destroyed. Other horses become severely injured where they cannot function naturally and need to be destroyed. The current federal transportation and slaughter bans have created devastating declines in the horse market prices, the loss of secondary markets, and have created a huge surplus of unwanted horses, with no place to take them. If this continues, I feel you will soon see horses being turned out along roadways for the "animal rescue" people to deal with. Unwanted horses may soon become another economic burden for the government to deal with. Farmers, ranchers and people who simply own horses for pleasure cannot afford to continue feeding animals that are no longer useful.

Please make sure you are fully informed on the negative affects of banning transportation and slaughter of horses and press for reinstatement of these decisions to individual States. I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution #5004.

Tucker Quarter Horses  
Raymond, Diann, Scott, Steven, Brad and Blake Tucker  
746 215<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701  
620-224-7055

Ag & Natural Resources Committee  
Date 2-09-09  
Attachment 12



Donn Teske  
 President, Kansas Farmers Union  
 901 W. First St.  
 Box 1064  
 McPherson, Ks. 67460  
 785-770-0336  
[dteske@bluevalley.net](mailto:dteske@bluevalley.net)

2-9-2009

House Agriculture Committee; Chairman Powell

Hello,

Kansas Farmers Union would like to speak in support of HCR 5004, a Concurrent resolution urging the United States Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

Horses are one of many commodities produced in rural Kansas. As a commodity they are to be utilized as resources for the benefit of mankind in many different means with the processing for slaughter after their usefulness is over just another way of utilizing this commodity.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donn Teske".

Donn Teske

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 Date 2-25-09  
 Attachment 13