



June 28, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Appropriations
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As animal welfare advocates and public figures, we're asking you to preserve American values and tradition by providing much-needed protection for our nation's horses. Please ensure that the FY18 Agriculture Appropriations bill includes the longstanding ban on using tax dollars to support the inhumane horse slaughter industry. Without this ban, horse slaughter plants are sure to re-open in the United States, resurrecting a viciously cruel industry the vast majority of Americans strongly reject.

Horse slaughter is not a form of humane euthanasia. They rarely have quick, painless deaths, often enduring repeated stuns or blows in the process and some may even be conscious during slaughter and dismemberment. Horses bound for slaughter are transported long distances in distressing conditions and are often seriously injured in the process. Slaughterhouses are not clean enterprises and these facilities have proved to be environmentally damaging as well as economically draining to the communities that have housed them.

Horse meat is also extremely unsafe for human consumption because the vast majority of horses are routinely given drugs the FDA has banned for use in animals raised for food due to their toxicity to humans.

According to data from the ASPCA, 2.3 million Americans have the space, resources and strong interest in adopting a horse. This means there are more than enough homes for the 100,000 American horses currently being shipped to Canada and Mexico each year to be slaughtered. Diverting horses from the slaughter pipeline into rescue networks who can connect with these homes is not just a good idea; it is a moral imperative.

You are in a position to play a strong role in preventing the cruel horse slaughter industry from taking root in the United States. On behalf of these vulnerable animals, as well as America's humane integrity, we urge you and your colleagues to do so.

Thank you for your consideration and your compassion.

Sincerely,

Beth Behrs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Behrs" in a cursive script.

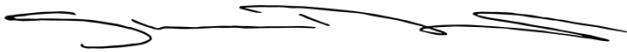
Huw James Collins

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw James Collins" in a cursive script.

Whitney Cummings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitney Cummings" in a cursive script.

Shannen Doherty

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannen Doherty" in a cursive script.

Katherine Schwarzenegger

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Schwarzenegger" in a cursive script.