

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2008

373P0753

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1007

Introduced by: Representatives Sigdestad, Boomgarden, Bradford, Brunner, Buckingham, Burg, Davis, Deadrick, Dennert, DeVries, Dykstra, Elliott, Faehn, Gilson, Gosch, Hackl, Halverson, Hargens, Haverly, Heineman, Howie, Hunt, Jerke, Kirkeby, Koistinen, Lust, Moore, Nelson, Noem, Nygaard, Olson (Betty), Olson (Russell), Pederson (Gordon), Rausch, Rave, Rhoden, Steele, Street, Tidemann, Turbiville, Van Etten, Vanneman, and Willadsen and Senators McNenny, Albers, Bartling, Duenwald, Hansen (Tom), Hanson (Gary), Hundstad, Kloucek, Lintz, Maher, Napoli, Olson (Ed), Peterson (Jim), Schmidt (Dennis), and Turbak Berry

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the establishment of USDA-inspected horse
2 processing plants in the State of South Dakota.

3 WHEREAS, the need for a humane horse processing plant is crucial as the Horse Welfare
4 Coalition estimates that 60,000 to 90,000 unwanted horses annually would be exposed to
5 potential abandonment and neglect; and

6 WHEREAS, the 60,000 to 90,000 unwanted horses each year would compete for adoption
7 with the 32,000 wild horses that United States taxpayers are already paying \$40 million to
8 shelter and feed; and

9 WHEREAS, the euthanasia method used occurs before processing, and this method is
10 humane, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the United
11 States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which regulates the practice. The method meets



1 specific humane requirements set forth by AVMA's Panel on Euthanasia, the United States
2 Congress, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the Humane Society of the
3 United States Statement on Euthanasia because it results in instantaneous brain death; and

4 WHEREAS, horse processing plants are required to have USDA veterinarians on site
5 supervising the euthanasia of each horse during the entire time the plant is in operation. The
6 veterinarian is bound by law to stop the process and close the plant immediately if any evidence
7 of inhumane treatment is witnessed; and

8 WHEREAS, humane treatment is the law and good business practice. Treating the horses
9 well and minimizing their pain and stress keeps the plants operating smoothly and efficiently;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the USDA estimates that 35,000 horses were sent to Canada for slaughter in
12 2007, about a forty-one percent increase from the year before; and

13 WHEREAS, United States horse slaughter exports to Mexico have increased by three
14 hundred twelve percent. Despite American plant closures, slaughter continues across the
15 border; and

16 WHEREAS, the treatment of the horses once they cross the border into Mexico is
17 disturbing. The Humane Society of the United States released a video showing the brutal
18 stabbing death of a fully conscious horse at a Mexican slaughter facility; and

19 WHEREAS, USDA-inspected equine protein is a frequent element in the diet of United
20 States zoo animals; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States should provide USDA-inspected processed horsemeat for
22 export overseas; and

23 WHEREAS, South Dakota, the land of infinite variety, prides itself as a pro-business state
24 and encourages economic development:

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
2 Third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that humane
3 USDA-inspected horse processing plants are encouraged to be located on state, tribal, or private
4 lands within the state.