

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1007

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the euthanasia method used occurs before processing, and this method is humane, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which regulates the practice. The method meets specific humane requirements set forth by AVMA's Panel on Euthanasia, the United States Congress, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the Humane Society of the United States Statement on Euthanasia because it results in instantaneous brain death; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 21, 2008
February 22, 2008

Thomas J. Deadrick
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Trudy Evenstad
Secretary of the Senate