

August 3, 2012

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Fax: 202-720-2166

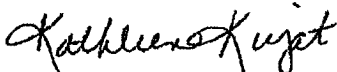
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

My family, friends & I applaud the USDA for not offering permits for horse slaughter inspections. Federal law provides for inspections of food animals. US horses are not food animals and the USDA is doing their job by not issuing such permits. Under current conditions in the US, horses are not safe for human consumption. As the owner of 5 horses, I wanted to call to your attention some facts that may have been misstated:

- The horse industry is in trouble like every other industry in the country due to the wide-spread recession.
- Over 80% of people in the U.S. oppose horse slaughter.
- Horse slaughter is not humane as horses are high flight, prey animals and cannot be humanely killed with the captive bolt system used for cattle.
- We do not want our tax dollars used to fund inspections for foreign corporations' kill centers.
- Horses in the US are not raised for slaughter and therefore are treated with drugs, like Phenylbutazone, that are known to cause cancer in humans.
- The EU has released new requirements for imports into the EU requiring full traceability at the farm level. Currently, there is no traceability and no way to guarantee that horses are drug free.
- It is morally incomprehensible to send horse meat overseas that is not safe for human consumption.
- I lived in Texas when the slaughter houses were open and after they were closed. There was no difference in the number of horses slaughtered only where the slaughter took place.

There is no reason the government should be spending millions of dollars on a program that only benefits 2% of horse owners. I can think of many areas in the country where that money is better spent. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Kujat, CPA, MBA


@evtc.com