

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the reinstatement and funding of a federal inspection program governing horse slaughter and euthanasia facilities.

WHEREAS, in recent years, the slaughter and processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue which has resulted in the recent closing of the last horse processing and slaughter facility in the United States; and

WHEREAS, thousands of unwanted horses annually are exposed to potential abandonment and neglect because of the cessation of horse slaughter in the United States, and efforts to prohibit the transport and export of horses for slaughter purposes only exacerbate this problem. These additional unwanted horses each year compete for adoption with the wild horses that are fed and sheltered at public expense; and

WHEREAS, the nation's inadequate and overburdened horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot begin to handle the influx of additional unwanted and abandoned horses each year that result from the cessation of equine slaughter, processing, and transport activity; and

WHEREAS, in the United States the harvest of animals under federal inspection is highly regulated to provide for humane handling of the animals as well as for a safe and wholesome product. Horse processing in the United States was the most tightly regulated of any animal harvest, and the horse is the only animal whose transportation to processing was regulated; and

WHEREAS, equine slaughter in many foreign facilities is not held to the standards for humane handling and euthanasia required in the United States and often involves practices that would not be tolerated in this country; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States to reduce the suffering inflicted on unwanted and abandoned horses and to meet overseas export markets for horsemeat in a humane manner; and

WHEREAS, horse processing facilities cannot be established in the United States unless federal inspection for such facilities is funded and reinstated:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South Dakota

Legislature urges the Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to reinstate and fully fund USDA's inspection program for horse euthanasia and horse slaughter facilities and to enact legislation to authorize the establishment of horse slaughter facilities in the United States.

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

February 3, 2009  
February 5, 2009

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Dennis Daugaard  
President of the Senate

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Trudy Evenstad  
Secretary of the Senate

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Timothy A. Rave  
Speaker of the House

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Karen Gerdes  
Chief Clerk of the House