

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2009

237Q0503

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Introduced by: Senators Kloucek, Gray, Howie, Maher, and Turbak Berry and
Representatives Lucas, Boomgarden, Feickert, Frerichs, Greenfield, Jensen,
Nygaard, Olson (Betty), Schrempp, Sorenson, and Street

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, in the United States the harvest of animals under federal inspection is highly



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

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

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

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

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-fourth Legislature
13 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
14 Dakota Legislature urges the Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to
15 reinstate and fully fund USDA's inspection program for horse euthanasia and horse slaughter
16 facilities and to enact legislation to authorize the establishment of horse slaughter facilities in
17 the United States.