

Calls Needed To Help Stop Anti-horse Slaughter Bill!!

The U. S. House Judiciary Committee is expected to vote soon on HR 503, a bill that will criminalize the possession, shipment, transportation, purchase, sale, delivery or receiving of any horse with the intent of it being used for human food. That makes it absolutely vital that calls to Committee members, listed below, be made AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.)

Horse owners seeking a humane, financially viable method of disposing of their unwanted horses know the impact of almost two years without a U.S. horse slaughter plant. That is why your calls to Judiciary Committee members are needed NOW to oppose the radical anti-slaughter bill, HR 503, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill's language is chilling: it would make it a federal crime, subject to a fine and/or imprisonment, for possessing, shipping, transporting, purchasing, selling, delivering or receiving any horse with the intent that it be used for human consumption. Put even more simply, it would remove the last remaining options for horse owners to dispose of their private property as they see fit by shipping the animals to Canada or Mexico.

The bill was introduced by House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-Mich.) and has 112 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. Industry sources say it's on the fast track to move through the Committee, and then be considered by the full House. **Stopping H.R. 503 will not be easy. Although there are scores of horse industry and related groups and organizations opposing it, supporters include many large, well-financed animal rights groups, which are lobbying hard for its passage.**

What is needed to stop this bill are more voices from the "real world" – and that's where you can be most effective. Listed below are the members of the Judiciary Committee. If your congressional district or your state has a representative on the Committee, **call TODAY...** express your opposition, and ask for his/her vote against H.R. 503. **When you call, don't just say you're against the bill. If possible, pass along concrete stories/incidents/information:** (1) **of abandoned horses** in your area or state or, horses abandoned at livestock markets by their owners when they didn't sell; (2) **of the negative impact on horse prices**, not just slaughter horses, since closure of U.S. slaughter plants (Good horses that once sold for \$5000, now sell for \$2000 or less.); (3) **of the financial strain** of maintaining an unfit horse and/or its disposal for other than food; (4) **of your right as a private property owner** to decide on the humane disposal of your animal; and (5) of the fact that, the **U.S. already spends \$22 million in taxpayer dollars to remove and maintain wild horses** and ask the question: **Is the Congress prepared to spend millions more to maintain unwanted domestic horses?**

"The best lobbyists are those with a genuine stake in the issue," says Nancy Robinson, a lobbyist for the livestock marketing industry. Many Members of Congress report hearing nothing from the supporters of horse slaughter and yet, receiving hundreds of calls from those favoring HR 503. **"Thus, if everyone who opposes this bill doesn't get active and pick up the phone very soon, we will lose the fight to maintain humane horse slaughter as a viable disposal option for unwanted, unfit horses in this country,** reports Ms. Robinson." (Ms. Robinson can be contacted at nrobinson@lmaweb.com or 800-821-2048 for more information on this issue.)

Members of the House Judiciary Committee offices can be reached through the main Capitol switchboard, 202-224-3121. Their last names are followed by the district they represent.

REPUBLICANS:

Arizona: Franks, 2nd

California: Gallegly, 24th; Lungren, 3rd; Issa, 49th

Florida: Rooney, 16th

Iowa: King, 5th

Mississippi: Harper, 3rd

North Carolina: Coble, 6th

Ohio: Jordan, 4th

Texas: Smith, 21st (ranking minority member);

Gohmert, 1st, Poe, 2nd;

Utah: Chaffetz, 3rd;

Virginia: Forbes, 4th, Goodlatte, 6th

Wisconsin: Sensenbrenner, Jr., 5th.

DEMOCRATS:

California: Berman, 28th, Lofgren, 16th, Sherman, 27th, Waters, 35th

Florida: Wexler, 19th

Georgia: Johnson, 4th

Illinois: Gutierrez, 4th

Massachusetts: Delahunt, 10th

Michigan: Conyers, Jr., 14th (Chairman)

New York: Nadler, 8th

North Carolina: Watt, 12th

Tennessee: Cohen, 9th

Texas: Gonzalez, 20th; Jackson Lee, 18th;

Virginia: Scott, 3rd; Boucher, 9th

Wisconsin: Baldwin, 2nd