

## **LMA ACTION ALERT!!**

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**ISSUE:** **USDA Inspection of Horse Processing Facilities**

**ACTION NEEDED:** **Re-Open Horse Processing Facilities by Removing Ag Appropriation Language Prohibiting Federal Funds for the Inspection of Horse Slaughter Plants**

Like other meat products, federal and state inspection of horse processing facilities is required for horse meat to move in interstate and foreign commerce. For several years, congressional opponents to the slaughter of horses for human food have successfully tacked on a rider to the annual agriculture appropriations prohibiting the expenditure of federal funds for the purpose of carrying out inspection at horse processing facilities thus effectively keeping any horse processing plant from operating in the United States.

House Ag Appropriations Committee member Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) has become a leading proponent in the U. S. Congress, on behalf of the horse and livestock industry, in the effort to restore horse processing in the United States. (LMA has been a significant national industry leader in that effort.) She has been joined in that fight by Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA), who has submitted a formal request to the Committee seeking removal of the annual rider from the House ag appropriations bill.

**IT IS CRITICAL THAT EVERY MARKET OWNER/OPERATOR, WHETHER YOU SELL HORSES OR NOT, BEGIN CONTACTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR REMOVAL OF THE HORSE PROCESSING INSPECTION RIDER FROM THE FY 2012 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS. Markup of the bill at by the subcommittee is scheduled for on or around May 25<sup>th</sup>. Calls between now and markup of the bill are absolutely necessary, if we are to overcome the flood of calls that can be expected to come from HSUS/PETA and other anti-horse processing supporters.**

The closure of horse slaughter facilities in America has decimated the equine industry and severely curtailed the ability of states and tribes to control the numbers of excess and abandoned horses on their lands. Documented reports indicate an increase of 400% in the number of starved, abandoned, and neglected horses between 2008 and 2009 alone. The closure of U.S. horse slaughter plants has severely impacted the livestock industry as a whole by eliminating the salvage value of horses thereby significantly reducing the market value of all horses. Also, the loss of export markets for horsemeat products export has eliminated more than \$42 million in direct income for an already struggling sector of the livestock industry. The horse industry prior to 2007 was a multi-billion dollar industry that supported at least a half million jobs directly related to horses, and another one and a half to two million jobs in indirect jobs. All indications are that the closure of U.S. horse processing facilities has severely devastated the horse industry and, if not already, will have led to the number of U.S. horse operations being cut by half.

**PLEASE, PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE AND/OR THE AG STAFF PERSON, LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE, AND URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE REMOVAL OF THE HORSE INSPECTION RIDER TO THE USDA APPROPRIATIONS.**

**WE ALSO URGE YOU TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FROM YOUR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND ASK THEM TO URGE AG APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS TO REMOVE THE AG APPROPRIATIONS RIDER RESTRICTING FUNDING FOR INSPECTION OF HORSE PROCESSING PLANTS:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

House Switchboard: 202-224-3121;

Directory of House Agriculture Committee members: <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

Directory of House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

House E-mail Contact Website: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

(Most of the e-mail contact addresses will only accept messages from constituents  
in the member's congressional district.)

**Majority:**

**Jack Kingston (GA), Chairman**

Telephone: 202-225-5831, E-mail: <http://kingston.house.gov/ContactForm/>

**Tom Latham (IA)**

Telephone: 202-225-5476; E-mail: <http://www.tomlatham.house.gov/Contact/>

**Jo Ann Emerson (MO)**

Telephone: 202-225-4404; E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/emerson/contact.shtml>

**Robert Aderholt (AL)**

Telephone: 202-225-4876; E-mail: <http://aderholt.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=198>

**Cynthia Lummis (WY)**

Telephone: 202-225-2311; E-mail: <https://lummis.house.gov/Contact/default.aspx>

**Alan Nunnelee (MS)**

Telephone: 202-225-4306; E-mail: <https://nunnelee.house.gov/contact-me>

**Tom Graves (GA)**

Telephone: 202-225-5211; Email: <http://tomgraves.house.gov/Contact/>

**Minority:**

**Sam Farr (CA), Ranking Member**

Telephone: 202-225-2861; E-mail: [https://forms.house.gov/farr/webforms/issue\\_subscribe.html](https://forms.house.gov/farr/webforms/issue_subscribe.html)

**Rosa DeLauro (CT)**

Telephone: 202-225-3661; E-mail: [http://delauro.house.gov/contact\\_form\\_email.cfm](http://delauro.house.gov/contact_form_email.cfm)

**Sanford Bishop (GA)**

Telephone: 202-225-3631; E-mail: [https://forms.house.gov/bishop/webforms/issue\\_subscribe.html](https://forms.house.gov/bishop/webforms/issue_subscribe.html)

**Marcy Kaptur (OH)**

Telephone: 202-225-4146; Email: [https://forms.house.gov/kaptur/webforms/issue\\_subscribe.htm](https://forms.house.gov/kaptur/webforms/issue_subscribe.htm)