

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, & Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, & Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

As the Subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we respectfully ask you to include language that ensures no funding is authorized for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspections of horse slaughter facilities or horse meat, thus preventing horse slaughter plants from operating in the U.S. Similar language was in place from 2005-2011 and was reinstated in the Fiscal Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act when an amendment was adopted by voice vote in both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The provision has been included in each final bill since, most recently in Fiscal Year 2019.

Horse slaughter is unavoidably cruel and also raises serious food safety concerns. Horses, which are not raised as food animals, are given a wide variety of therapeutic drugs and treatments banned for use on animals intended for human consumption by the USDA. Horse meat is not consumed in the United States, but American horses are exported to slaughter for human consumption abroad. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent on an industry that the American public so vehemently opposes. USDA resources should go toward inspecting and ensuring the quality of the food products Americans consume.

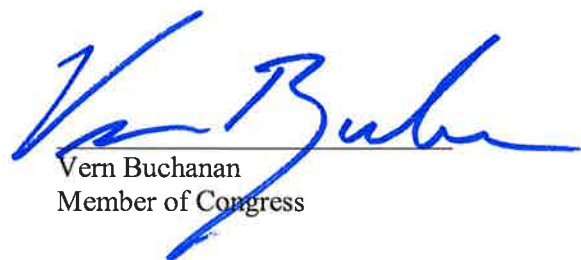
We support legislation to permanently ban horse slaughter in the U.S. and to ban the export of horses for that purpose abroad. However, until this ban is enacted, it is essential that Congress continue its commitment to the humane treatment of America's horses and to food safety.

We urge you to include language in the Fiscal Year 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill that would prohibit the use of funds for horse slaughter inspections.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



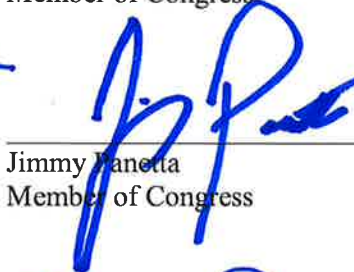
Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



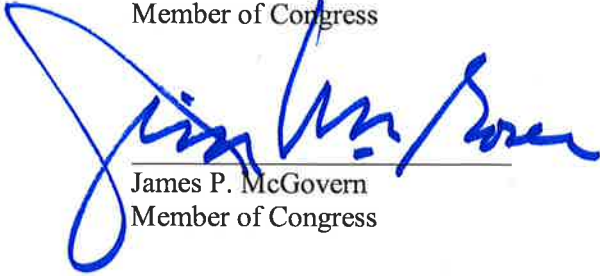
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



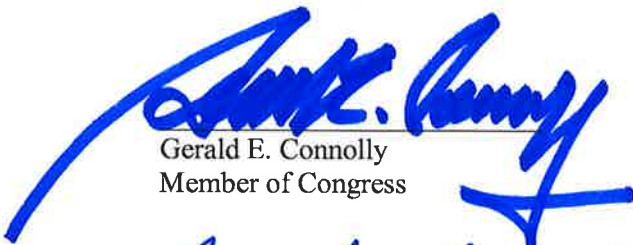
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



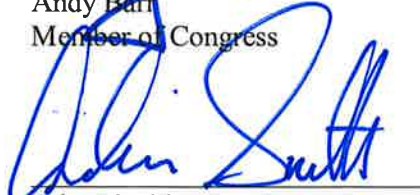
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



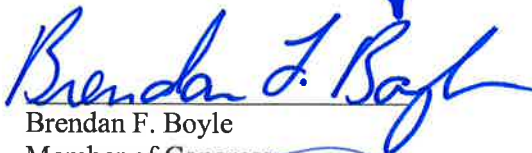
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver II
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Bill Posey
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Steve Chabot
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Brian Mast
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Harley Rouda
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Jackie Speier
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Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



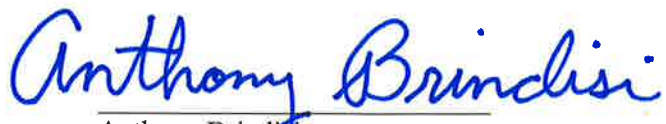
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



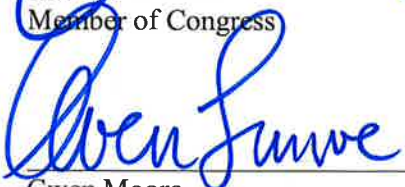
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



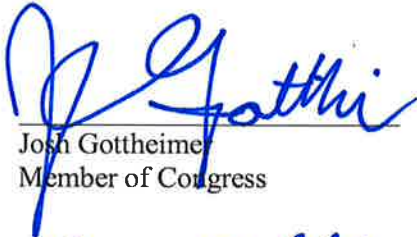
Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



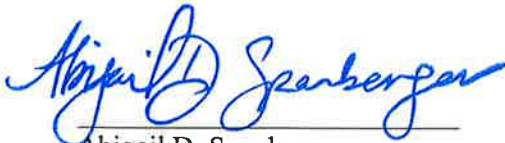
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



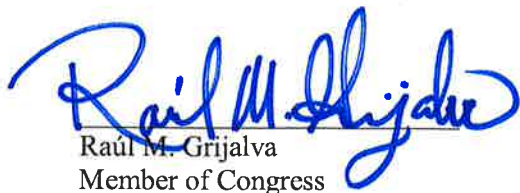
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

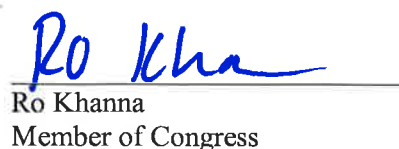


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



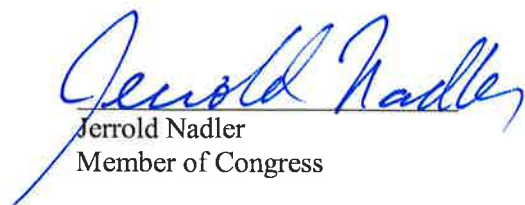
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

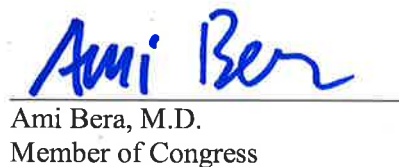

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

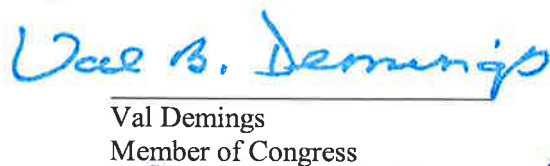

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

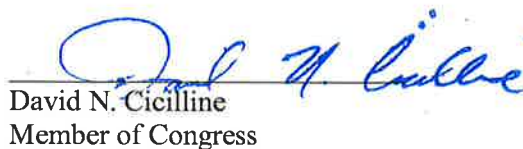

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

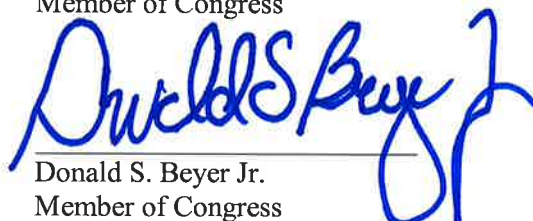

Bill Foster
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

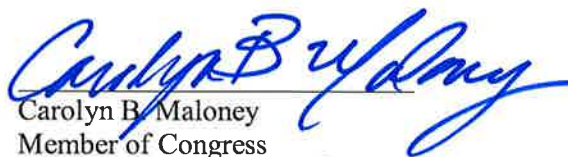

Val Demings
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

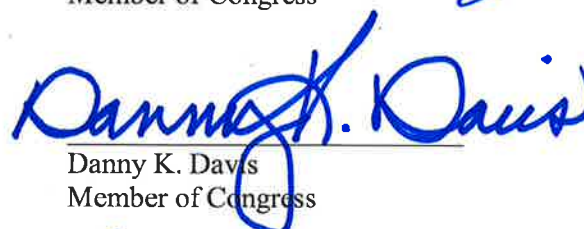

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

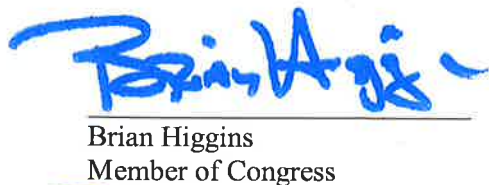

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

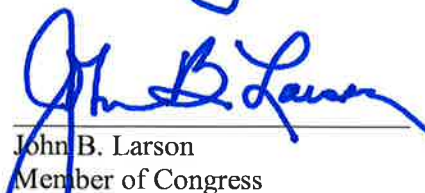

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

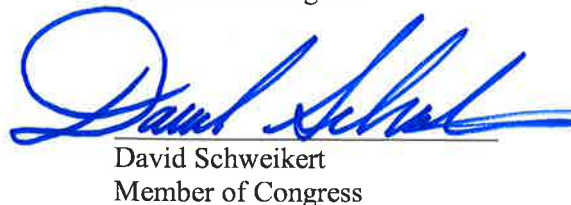

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

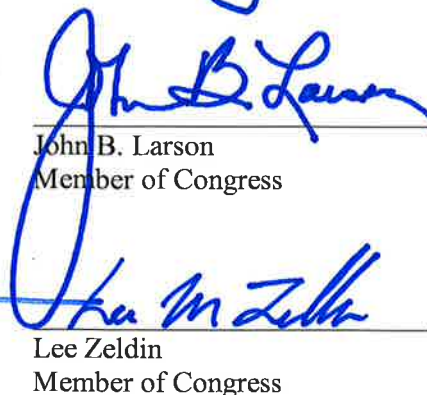

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress

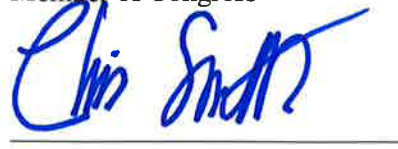

David Schweikert
Member of Congress


Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress


Seth Moulton
Member of Congress


André Carson
Member of Congress


Mike Quigley
Member of Congress


Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

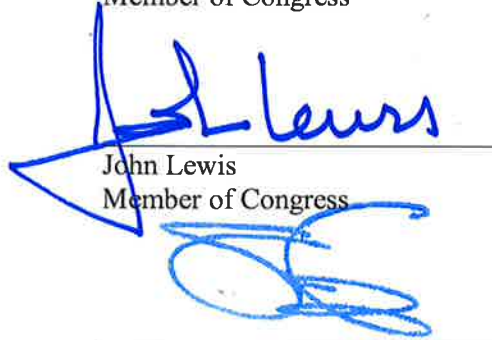

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

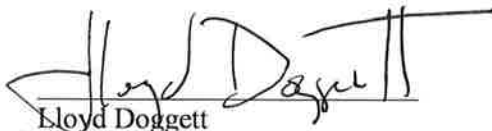

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

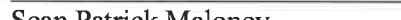

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

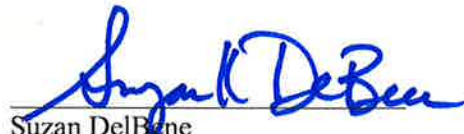

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

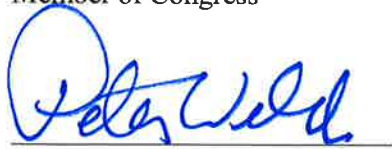

John Lewis
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress


Al Green
Member of Congress


Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



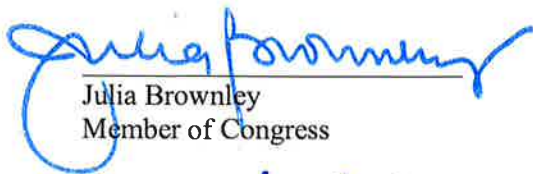
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress