

March 13, 2020

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:

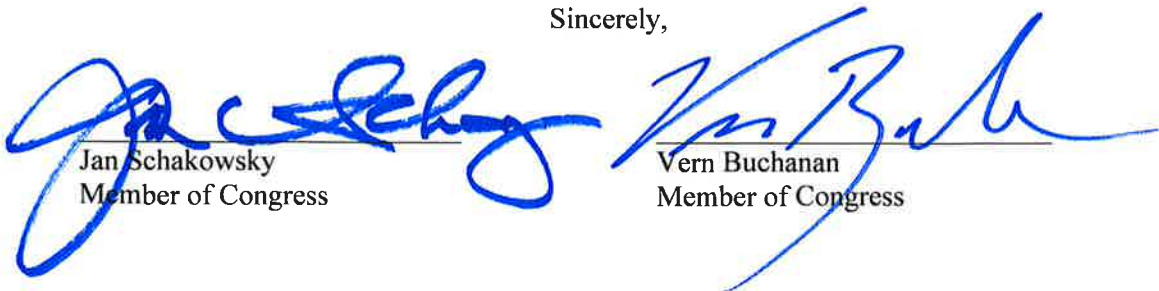
As the Subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year 2021 Agriculture Appropriations bill, we respectfully ask you to include language that ensures no funding is authorized for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspections of horse slaughter facilities or horse meat, thus preventing horse slaughter plants 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 2020.

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 2021 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

Horse Slaughter Inspection at USDA, FY 2021
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March 13, 2020

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