

# THE FACTS: PROTECTING OUR HORSES, WILD AND DOMESTIC

## **ISSUE #1 – Preventing Horse Slaughter in the U.S.**

For more than a decade, we have prevented the slaughter of horses (within the U.S.) for human consumption by amending appropriations bills to deny funding for it. Legislation has been introduced to ban horse slaughter permanently (the SAFE Act), but until that passes, our tradition of not investing tax dollars in the horse slaughter industry must continue. This year, we have documented a massive decline in the export of horses for slaughter (44%), so we must stay the course and prevent government investment in this loathsome industry.

### **What We Need To Do**

In July, the House Appropriations Committee failed to pass an amendment to prevent horse slaughter in the U.S., while the Senate Appropriations Committee passed it. Now, those two versions will be negotiated and we need to ensure that the Senate version is accepted.

### **WHAT YOU CAN ASK**

**As your constituent, I urge that you protect our equine companions from the cruel fate of slaughter. Please vote to prohibit the use of federal funds on horse slaughter, and cosponsor the SAFE Act.**

### **Talking Points: Why Prevent Horse Slaughter?**

- There is no market for horse meat in the United States.
- Congress must not divert resources from American needs to subsidize a foreign industry.
- Horse slaughter is not necessary to manage populations and it harms equine welfare.
- U.S. horse meat is dangerous due to numerous toxic substances routinely given to horses.
- Horse slaughter plants are economic and environmental nightmares for communities.

## **ISSUE #2 – Protecting Our Wild Horses**

In a radical break from long-held policy, the House Appropriations Committee recently passed a deadly amendment to allow the mass killing of wild horses and burros under the care of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These protected wild mustangs are supposed to be managed using birth control and non-lethal methods, but the BLM has fallen down on the job. Some believe that there are too many horses, and are pushing the new administration to kill thousands of wild horses or to sell them to slaughter buyers.

### **What We Need to Do**

The House Appropriations Committee recently passed the Stewart Amendment to authorize the government to shoot tens of thousands of horses, calling it “euthanasia.” The Senate has not yet acted on this bill and we need them to reject any effort to kill/slaughter wild horses and burros. The BLM must do its job and manage these majestic mustangs using non-lethal methods.

### **WHAT YOU CAN ASK**

**Please ensure that the BLM fulfills its mandate of caring for and protecting our wild horses and burros with non-lethal methods. Do not allow federal funds to be used on the wholesale killing of these American icons.**

### **Talking Points: What Should Be Done for Wild Horses?**

- Birth control is effective, but BLM spends >1% of its budget on this method. It can't work if they don't use it.
- Wild horse habitat has diminished by 41% since 1971. Horses can be repatriated to past habitat.
- Private sanctuaries are ready and able to take in wild horses, greatly reducing agency spending.
- Americans respect and love these living symbols of the West and will not tolerate their wholesale slaughter.