



# PROFESSIONAL RODEO COWBOYS ASSOCIATION

101 PRO RODEO DR  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80919

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Pallone,

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) to express opposition to the *Safeguard American Food Exports Act of 2019* (H.R.961). This legislation would ban the only remaining humane and economically viable option for unwanted horses.

This bill not only bans the consumption of horse meat, but also bans the transportation of horses out of the United States for slaughter. It puts an undue burden upon all parties involved and closes the last available avenue open to producers, as euthanasia is not a financially feasible option. This bill will likely cause a public safety crisis as well as a possible environmental crisis.

Unwanted horses will be neglected or abandoned, and equine slaughter will be driven underground. The PRCA is not only concerned for the producer, but also fears for the well-being of any unwanted horse.

The PRCA is the oldest, largest rodeo-sanctioning body in the world. We sanction over 700 events annually and are highly vested in the equine industry. We are the leader in animal welfare for the rodeo industry and we are highly concerned that this legislation will negatively impact rodeo as well as any industry that is involved with horses.

The PRCA is committed to the safety and humane treatment of all horses and supports finding a solution for any unwanted horse. We respectfully ask for your opposition to the SAFE Act (H.R. 961).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Dorenkamp'.

Scott Dorenkamp  
Manager, Livestock Welfare and Government Relations

Cc: Ranking Member Greg Walden