

Representative Anna Eshoo  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2020

Representative G.K. Butterfield  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Michael Burgess  
2161 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Burgess, Chairwoman Eshoo, Vice Chairman Butterfield, and other members of the Subcommittee on Health,

My name is Julie Caramante. I am the Vice President of the Texas State Horse Council (TSHC), a non-profit dedicated to raising public awareness about the importance of the horse industry to the economic, social and cultural well-being of Texas. On behalf of the TSHC, I am writing to ask you to support the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, H.R. 961, to ban the slaughter of America's horses for human consumption and stop their exportation for that purpose.

As you know, in 1952, the Texas state legislature had the good sense to outlaw the sale, possession, or transfer of horsemeat for human consumption. Horse slaughter does not stop or prevent horse neglect, and it is the antithesis of humane euthanasia. The horses who end up in slaughterhouses are not unwanted, just unlucky enough to catch the attention of the slaughter buyers.

Texas residents know only too well about the immediate and long-term damage that slaughterhouses inflict on the communities in which they operate. Case in point: The city of Kaufman, where the Dallas Crown horse slaughterhouse operated before it was forced to close under state law in 2007. The negative impact of the facility on the city included contaminated ground water, unhealthy air quality, low-wage jobs, and lowered property values. A photo essay compiled by [Forbes Magazine](#) details these violations, and [frequent testimony from Kaufman residents](#) offer stark evidence of the horse slaughter industry's destructive history in our state. While wreaking all that havoc, the plant paid only \$5.00 in taxes on \$12,000,000 of income.

According to a Texas A&M study, the horse industry directly or indirectly contributes \$5.9 billion annually, in addition to 52,000 jobs. Those figures include the use of horses in recreation, farming, entertainment, and therapy programs.

Please join the 80 percent of Americans who oppose the slaughter of our horses; please support the SAFE Act, S. 2006. Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Julie Caramante  
Vice President, Texas State Horse Council  
PO Box 1123  
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