



The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Date 7-1-24

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

As your constituent and President of the Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition, an equine welfare organization that has been working to prevent equine neglect and save horses from entering the horse slaughter pipeline, based in Hastings, MN. **I am writing to urge for the inclusion of the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, H.R. 3475 / S. 2037, in the Farm Bill – which, if passed, would permanently ban the slaughter of American horses on our soil and abroad.**

The Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition works closely with other members of our community to help support and advocate for equine welfare. We support horses and their owners through key initiatives such as our equine castration program, the Minnesota Hay Bank for horse nutrition, and our critical collaboration with law enforcement to prosecute horse-related crimes. Our goal is to rescue horses from the horse slaughter pipeline and ensure their well-being throughout Minnesota. **Until the SAFE act is passed, every horse is just one bad sale away from entering the slaughter pipeline.**

Horses that do end up in the horse slaughter pipeline suffer immensely during long-haul transportation to slaughterhouses. Research has found that 79% of slaughtered horses had serious injuries caused by their transportation. Yet the cruelty does not end after transportation; past USDA inspections confirm the rampant violations and brutality that was found in domestic slaughter plants, which have also been observed in foreign plants. Horses are often improperly stunned before the slaughter process and are sometimes conscious during dismemberment. These innocent animals deserve the chance to find good homes or, if necessary, a responsible, humane euthanasia at the end of their lives – not the horrors of slaughter.

The SAFE Act is federal legislation that would make horses a part of an existing law banning the slaughter of dogs and cats for meat. The vast majority of Americans oppose horse slaughter, and it's past due to afford them the same protections as our beloved household pets. Passing the SAFE Act would close the horse slaughter pipeline and allow organizations like ours to give these animals the care they deserve. The opportunity to end the horrific practice of horse slaughter is now. Global demand for horse meat is declining, making this the opportune moment to end this practice. However, without a federal ban, horse slaughter will continue to occur. Horses deserve to live with dignity in the country they helped build, rather than being exploited by profit-driven foreign meat companies.

For these reasons, I urge you to ensure the SAFE Act is included in the Farm Bill and passed this year to permanently ban horse slaughter in the U.S. and prevent the export of American horses for slaughter abroad.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Horse Welfare Coalition