



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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A Weekly Column for the  
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# Resolution Calls on Congress to Continue to Allow Horse Processing

JEFFERSON CITY – This week I presented a resolution to the Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions & Ethics Committee urging Congress to strongly support the continuation of horse processing in the United States and to offer incentives to create horse processing plants throughout the country.

Toward the end of 2006, the Republican-led Congress forced horse processing plants to close, eliminating the export of processed equine meat. It is hard to believe that our Congress would do anything this impractical. The Horse Welfare Coalition estimates some 90,000 to 100,000 unwanted horses are now exposed to abandonment and neglect. Those same horses now compete for adoption with the 32,000 wild horses that U.S. taxpayers are spending \$40 million to shelter and feed. Our country's inadequate, overburdened and unregulated horse rescue and adoption facilities can't handle tens of thousands of additional horses each year that have resulted from the harvesting ban.

A lot of zoo animal diets rely on equine protein because it mimics what the animals would eat in the wild. Veterinarians and animal nutritionists say it's the healthiest diet for big cats and rare birds. The Congressional ban on processing has eliminated the only source for this meat that was inspected by the USDA.

My resolution calls on the General Assembly to urge Congress to support the continuation of horse processing; it encourages Congress to support new horse processing facilities; and it calls on the General Assembly to support the location of USDA-approved horse processing facilities on state, tribal or private lands.

This week we also gave final approval to a bill requiring scrap metal dealers and recyclers to keep detailed records of the people who sell copper and aluminum scrap metal and other things like manhole covers. Because of rising commodity prices, thieves have been stealing electrical wiring from irrigation systems and homes, they've been stealing plumbing from new construction and old, abandoned homes, and just about anything else they can get their hands on. One man's junk is another man's treasure. Better record keeping will help police track down scrap metal thieves more easily while protecting those of us who collect and sell scrap metal legitimately.

I also had the pleasure of sponsoring the nomination of Mike Greenwell of Shelbina to the Truman State University Board of Governors. Mike and his wife Marcia have two boys, Mitch and Mason. Mike will be a great addition to the University's Board of Governors.

We had a lot of folks stop by our Capitol office this week, including Jeb Weaver of Midstates Horse Sales in Glenwood, Mike Edmundson, a packer and buyer, Elmer Beechy with the Amish community, breeder Ed Sangster and Cindy Whitlock from Schuyler County. We also welcomed a bunch of folks from the Pike, Ralls, Audrain and Shelby County Extension Offices. Remember, if you're in Jefferson City to visit our state Capitol, be sure to stop by the office in Room 434 and say howdy.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.