

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

WHEREAS, horse processing is the most tightly regulated of any animal harvest, and the horse is the only animal that has its transportation to processing regulated. If horse processing plants are forced to close and export options are eliminated, the Horse Welfare Coalition estimates that 90,000 to 100,000 unwanted horses annually would be exposed to potential abandonment and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the 90,000 to 100,000 additional unwanted horses each year would compete for adoption with the 32,000 wild horses that United States taxpayers are already paying \$40 million to shelter and feed; and

WHEREAS, the nation's inadequate, overburdened, and unregulated horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot handle the influx of the approximately 60,000 or more additional horses each year that would result from a harvesting ban, according to the Congressional Research Service; and

WHEREAS, many zoo animal diets rely on equine protein because it mimics what the animal would receive in the wild. Veterinarians and animal nutritionists say it is the healthiest diet for big cats and rare birds. If legislation shuts down horse processing facilities, the only source for this meat that is inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be eliminated:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to strongly support the continuation of horse processing in the United States and to offer incentives that help create horse processing plants throughout the United States, such as state-inspected horse harvest for export; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri General Assembly strongly encourage Congress to support new horse processing facilities and the continuation of existing facilities on both the state and national level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri General Assembly urge Congress to oppose S. 311 and H.R. 503 of the 110th Congress and strongly support the transportation and processing of horses in the United States and internationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri General Assembly support the location of USDA-approved horse processing facilities on state, tribal, or private lands under mutually-acceptable and market-driven land leases and, if necessary, a mutually-acceptable assignment of revenues that meet the needs of all parties involved with the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.