



MEMORANDUM

To: AHC Member Organizations

Date: July 18, 2006

Re: Hearing on American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503) on Tuesday, July 25, 2006, in Room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC. The hearing will begin at 2:00 PM.

Witnesses will be invited to testify by the Subcommittee. The list has not yet been released.

This bill was introduced in February 2005 by Congressmen John Sweeney (R-NY) and Ed Whitfield (R-KY). It would prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption. The bill would amend the Horse Protection Act (HPA), which was enacted in 1970 to prohibit the showing, transport or sale of horses that have been subjected to any painful process to accentuate their gate. The Animal & Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture enforces the HPA.

The bill would amend the HPA to prohibit the shipping, transporting, or sale of horses for slaughter for human consumption. Such activities would be a violation of the HPA and subject any person who knowingly violates the Act to penalties of up to \$3,000 and/or one year in jail for the first offense and up to \$5,000 and/or two years in jail for a second offense. An offender may also be subject to civil penalties of \$2,000 for each violation.

The bill authorizes \$5 million for enforcement.

This will be the first hearing on this legislation. The bill has also been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.