



American Horse Council Washington Update

Senate Passes Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Just before recessing in September, the Senate passed by unanimous consent the “Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act” (S. 3880). Introduced by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), this bill amends the Animal Enterprise Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-346).

Specifically, the bill clarifies that it is a crime to damage or interfere with a legitimate, legal animal enterprise. As defined by the bill, “animal enterprise” includes commercial and academic enterprises that use or sell animals or animal products for profit, food, agriculture, education, research and testing. This definition also includes equine activities such as rodeo, horse shows and similar lawful equine events.

The bill expands the monetary and criminal penalties for these crimes and requires restitution for certain economic losses. The bill contains a provision noting that this bill does not prohibit expressive conduct (including picketing or other peaceful demonstration), which is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

A similar bill, H.R. 4239, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI). The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing on the bill on May 23, 2006. H.R. 4239 does not include the First Amendment provisions contained in the Senate-passed version.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the American Horse Council at 202-296-4031.

To read the full text of the bill, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> and enter the bill number, S. 3880
