

WILLIE NELSON

LUCK ★ TEXAS

Support the Sweeney/Spratt/ Whitfield/Rahall Agriculture Appropriations Amendment to Stop Horse Slaughter

May 22, 2006

To All Members of Congress:

After five years of increasing public demand for an end to horse slaughter, you will have an immediate opportunity to end this cruel practice later this week. Representatives John Sweeney (R-NY), John Spratt (D-SC), Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and Nick Rahall (D-WV), sponsors of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503), will introduce an amendment to the House Agriculture Appropriations Act, preventing our taxpayer funds from being used to slaughter horses for human consumption abroad. **We ask you to support this amendment and vote YES.**



Ferdinand, winner of the 1986 Kentucky Derby, was found to have been slaughtered in Japan.

Horses have always been a symbol of America's free spirit. No other animal stirs such an emotional reaction as the horse. They have carried our leaders into battles, pulled our wagons into the untamed West and thrilled us through sport. In fact, horses such as Secretariat, Man O' War and Citation are considered among the top 100 athletes of the 20th century. The famous story of Seabiscuit, a once "unwanted horse" turned great champion, was considered for an Oscar.

Regardless of their fame and notoriety, no animal should be hauled across the country under the unhealthy and cruel conditions faced by slaughter-bound horses. Following their faithful service to humankind, our horses should not be killed at one of the three foreign-owned slaughterhouses in the United States, just so diners abroad can feast on their meat.

We strongly support the Sweeney/Spratt/Whitfield/Rahall Agriculture Appropriations Amendment and have rejected arguments from those who claim ending horse slaughter will be bad for horses. Don't be misled; horse slaughter is by no means equivalent to humane euthanasia. Ending horse slaughter will be nothing but good for horses, and we are confident that once you consider the facts, you will agree.

We urge you to follow the outstanding leadership of Representatives Sweeney, Spratt, Whitfield and Rahall on this issue and to support their amendment. It's not only about saving the lives of thousands of innocent horses; it's about a better America.

On behalf of my friends, thank you for your urgent consideration of the effort to end horse slaughter. Please visit www.horse-protection.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Ed Asner
Shane Barbi
Sia Barbi
Barbara Bosson
Ed Begley Jr.
Randy Bernard,
CEO, Professional Bull
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Kelly Bishop
Linda Blair
Barbara Bosson
Bruce Boxleitner
Jeff Bridges
Christie Brinkley
Rita Coolidge
John Corbett
Alex Cord
Catherine Crier,
Court TV
James Cromwell
Sheryl Crow
Tony Curtis
Ellen DeGeneres
Ron Delsener
Bo Derek
Clint Eastwood
Mike Epps
Will Estes
Shelley Fabares
Morgan Fairchild
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Arlo Guthrie
Merle Haggard
Jack Hanna
Daryl Hannah
Tess Harper
Tippi Hedren
Laura Hillenbrand,
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George Jones
Ashley Judd
Toby Keith
Eddy Kilroy,
Hank's Place
Carole King
Kris Kristofferson
George Lopez
Wendie Malick
Peter Max
Mrs. Roger (Mary)
Miller
Steve Miller
Mary Tyler Moore
Patrick McDonnell,
MUTTS ©
Sir Paul McCartney
Ali McGraw
Alexandra Paul
Richard Pryor
Carl Reiner
Keith Richards
Eric Roberts
Kid Rock
Theresa Russell
Nicollette Sheridan
Chris Shivers,
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Bernie Taupin
Marisol Thomas
Rob Thomas
Billy Bob Thornton
Shania Twain
Mike White, World
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