

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2013

*Attention: Animal Welfare LA / Agriculture LA*

**Deadline extended to April 25**

Dear Colleague:

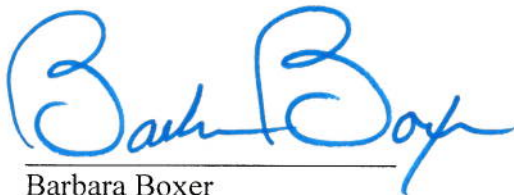
Congress has charged the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), the Horse Protection Act (HPA), and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA). These are laws that require basic protections for millions of animals at more than 34,000 sites across the country. Slaughterhouses, medical laboratories, zoos, and commercial breeding facilities – commonly known as puppy mills – all fall under USDA's oversight. However, these laws are only as effective as the resources available to enforce them.

We are pleased that Congress has responded in recent years by providing vital funding to strengthen enforcement of animal welfare laws. We hope you will join us in signing the attached letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee requesting that they continue this worthwhile endeavor. It is important that we ensure that the USDA has the resources it needs to enforce these laws as Americans expect.

Last year, 35 Senators signed onto a similar letter to the appropriators or included these items among their individual requests. In light of current budget pressures, this year's letter calls for very modest funding.

If you wish to sign the attached letter, please notify Joaquin Esquivel in Senator Boxer's office at 4-3553 or Chris Stanley in Senator Vitter's office at 4-4623 by April 25.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



David Vitter  
United States Senator