The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Address

Dear Congress(man/woman) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As an animal advocate and constituent from your district, I am writing to ask you to cosponsor the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act (H.R 961). The SAFE Act will ban the slaughter of our nation’s horses in the U.S. for human consumption and stop them from being shipped across our borders for that purpose.

Until the U.S. Congress passes this legislation, every American horse is in danger of being caught in the deadly net of “kill buyers” who purchase horses at the behest of the slaughter industry. These predators seek out healthy horses in good condition – the very horses that would thrive in second-chance situations such as recreation and competition. Some horses even go on to rehabilitate veterans or work with children with disabilities.

Under no circumstances can the slaughter process be made humane for horses.  They are high-energy animals with strong “fight or flight” instincts when threatened or frightened.  It is nearly impossible to efficiently stun these animals with one blow and even after multiple attempts, they may still be conscious during slaughter.  This was the reality when USDA-inspected slaughter houses operated in the U.S.

The dangers posed by the horse slaughter industry not only affect horses, but they also threaten humans.  Meat from American horses is dangerous to consumers because the animals are routinely provided drugs that are known to be toxic to people and for that reason are specifically banned by the Food and Drug Administration for use in animals raised for human consumption.  No U.S. government agency has the means or capacity to monitor and track a horse’s drug history prior to slaughter. Recently, the European Union cited the lack of traceability as the key factor in its decision to ban imports of horsemeat from slaughterhouses in Mexico (a major destination for American horses shipped to slaughter).

For these reasons, I urge you to cosponsor the SAFE Act, (H.R. 961). Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,