

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting legislative efforts in other states addressing the need to provide for equine slaughter and processing in the United States.

WHEREAS, there are currently no horse processing facilities in operation in the United States, and federal legislation was introduced to prohibit the transport or sale of horses and other equines for slaughter or processing; and

WHEREAS, the equine industry faces an unprecedented crisis as thousands of unwanted horses are exposed to abandonment and neglect because of the cessation of horse slaughter in the United States, and efforts to prohibit the transport and export of horses for slaughter only exacerbate this problem; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States. The nation's overburdened horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot begin to handle the influx of additional abandoned horses each year that results from the cessation of equine slaughter, processing, and transport activity; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the harvest of animals under federal inspection is highly regulated to provide for humane handling of the animals and for a safe and wholesome product. Horse processing in the United States was the most tightly regulated of any animal harvest. Horse processing facilities cannot be established in the United States unless federal inspection for such facilities is reinstated; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Legislature is currently considering HB 1496 to authorize and fund a feasibility study for an equine processing facility to meet the needs of the equine industry in the current crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Legislature is considering HB 0583 to reinstate certain inspection and regulation activity related to horse slaughter and processing facilities as well as other provisions to facilitate the resumption of such activity in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature is considering HB 418, a measure to encourage private horse slaughter plant development. The bill would prohibit state courts from granting injunctions designed to stop or delay construction of horse slaughter or processing facilities based on permit or

licensing challenges or on environmental grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments at its 2007 and 2008 meetings passed resolutions in support of horse processing and related activities in the United States:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature supports actions proposed by the state legislatures in North Dakota, Montana, Illinois, and other states to facilitate the resumption of equine processing and slaughter in the United States and urges the Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to reinstate USDA's inspection program for horse slaughter facilities and to lift restrictions on horse slaughter and processing activities and facilities in the United States.

Adopted by the Senate,
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

March 10, 2009
March 12, 2009

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Trudy Evenstad
Secretary of the Senate

Timothy A. Rave
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House