

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

822S0743

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Introduced by: Representatives Kloucek, Boomgarden, Brunner, Cronin, Deelstra, Dennert, Fargen, Feickert, Gibson, Hansen (Jon), Hawley, Hoffman, Hunhoff (Bernie), Hunt, Jensen, Jones, Kirkeby, Kopp, Lucas, Lust, Magstadt, Miller, Moser, Munsterman, Nelson (Stace), Olson (Betty), Rausch, Russell, Schaefer, Schrempp, Sigdestad, Sly, Steele, Street, Stricherz, Tulson, Turbiville, Vanneman, Verchio, White, and Wismer and Senators Sutton, Begalka, Bradford, Brown, Frerichs, Fryslie, Garnos, Hundstad, Lederman, Maher, Nygaard, Olson (Russell), Rampelberg, Rave, Rhoden, Schlekeway, Tidemann, and Tieszen

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the reinstatement and funding of federal inspection
2 programs governing equine slaughter and processing facilities.

3 WHEREAS, the slaughter and processing of horses has become a controversial and
4 contentious issue, which has resulted in the closing of the last horse processing and slaughter
5 facilities in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, thousands of unwanted horses annually are exposed to abandonment and
7 neglect because of the cessation of horse slaughter in the United States. These additional
8 abandoned horses compete for adoption with wild horses that are fed and sheltered at public
9 expense. The nation's overburdened horse rescue facilities cannot absorb the influx of additional
10 unwanted and abandoned horses that result from the cessation of equine slaughter, processing,
11 and transport activity; and



1 WHEREAS, in 2005, Congress removed funding for USDA inspection programs for horse
2 slaughter and processing intended for human consumption. These funding bans have continued
3 for several years and have effectively prevented the operation of slaughter facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, federal dollars cannot be spent on salaries for inspectors who inspect horses
5 before or after slaughter, making it impossible for processing operations to market horse meat.
6 Inspectors cannot respond to voluntary or state fee-based inspection requests to inspect horse
7 meat; and

8 WHEREAS, some states are investigating or have approved state processing of abandoned
9 or stray horses. Given the current state of the horse processing industry, it is particularly
10 important that the federal government not restrict access to inspection. Horse processing
11 facilities cannot operate in the United States unless federal inspection for such facilities is
12 funded and reinstated; and

13 WHEREAS, pending legislation in Congress, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, would
14 further restrict actions related to horse slaughter and horse processing, and would prohibit the
15 transport and export of horses outside of the United States for the purpose of slaughter for
16 human consumption; and

17 WHEREAS, if transport of horses to Mexico and Canada for slaughter and processing for
18 human consumption is prohibited, the number of additional abandoned horses in the United
19 States will increase even further; and

20 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Legislature in 2010 overwhelmingly adopted SCR 4,
21 Opposing Certain Federal Legislation Related to Equine Slaughter and Processing and Urging
22 the Reinstatement and Funding of Federal Inspection Programs Governing Equine Slaughter and
23 Processing Facilities, and HCR 1003, Supporting the Reintroduction of Horse Slaughter and
24 Processing operations in the United States. In 2009, the Legislature overwhelmingly approved

1 SCR 2, Urging the Reinstatement and Funding of a Federal Inspection Program Governing
2 Horse Slaughter and Euthanasia Facilities, and SCR 10, Supporting Legislative Efforts in Other
3 States Addressing the Need to Provide for Equine Slaughter and Processing in the United States;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, a number of states, including Arkansas, Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas,
6 Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee,
7 Utah, and Wyoming, have introduced bills and resolutions opposing efforts to restrict the
8 marketing, transport, processing, or export of horses; recognizing the need for humane horse
9 processing facilities in the United States; and supporting state efforts to establish facilities in
10 the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, such diverse organizations as the Midwestern Legislative Conference of the
12 Council of State Governments, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the National
13 Congress of American Indians adopted resolutions and policy in support of horse processing and
14 related activities in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, there is a critical need for humane horse processing facilities in the United
16 States to reduce the suffering inflicted on unwanted and abandoned horses and to meet overseas
17 export markets for horsemeat in a humane manner:

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
19 sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
20 Dakota Legislature urges the Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to
21 reinstate and fully fund USDA's inspection program for equine euthanasia, slaughter, and
22 processing facilities and to enact legislation to facilitate the resumption of equine processing and
23 slaughter in the United States.