

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

**RE: PLEASE SIGN HISTORIC BILL BANNING HORSE SLAUGHTER,
S2163B/A05109, INTO LAW**

Dear Governor Hochul:

As a coalition of groups and individuals dedicated to the welfare of American equines, we are thrilled to see that both chambers of the New York legislature have approved by wide margins **S2163B/A05109**, the bill to ban the sale, transport, and export of horses for human or animal consumption. This historic legislation aligns with New York's strong tradition of concern for equine welfare, including the passage in 2021 of legislation to stop the transport and sale of retired race horses for slaughter.

Enacting a broader ban on horse slaughter in New York also aligns with the opinion of over 83 percent of Americans who strongly oppose slaughtering American equines. The lawless, fly-by-night horse slaughter industry has seen a steady but precipitous decline in the number of horses being exported to Canada and Mexico, from a high of 350,000 animals in the 1990's to just around 20,000 in 2022. This decline is due to decreasing global demand for horse meat, as well as international concerns with food safety and animal welfare problems associated with the horse slaughter industry.

Earlier this year, Animals' Angels partnered with the Center for a Humane Economy in an investigation of the U.S. slaughter industry. You can read the report [here](#). What the investigation revealed is that although the industry is teetering on the brink, the animals caught up in the slaughter pipeline continue to endure unimaginable cruelty and suffering at the hands of kill buyers, the opportunistic purveyors of horses who often simply find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. While many of these animals might otherwise be purchased by rescues, sanctuaries, and families, the kill buyers outbid them and then seek higher prices after the sale from those same interested parties. In other words, contrary to the claims of proponents of slaughter, there are ample resources for "excess" or "unwanted" horses, but the kill buyers thwart them as a means of boosting their bottom line. Horse rescue organizations and sanctuaries have stated with a high degree of confidence that between them and responsible prospective owners, there is ample capacity for horses that otherwise land in the slaughter pipeline, and thus slaughter should never be considered as the only option for those animals.

New York is the birthplace of the American animal welfare movement, the state where Henry Bergh first organized and enacted laws to protect working horses in the early part of the last century. The bill before you continues that proud tradition. Closing New York to the kill buyers will be a strong step in ending the transportation of American equines from the eastern portion of the country into Canada for slaughter and ensuring that horses in need will go to permanent, responsible new homes.

We thank you again for your strong leadership and service to the people of New York, and hope you will act swiftly to enact A05109A into law. Thank you for your time and consideration and for your service to the people of New York.

Sincerely,

Scott Beckstead
Director of Campaigns
Center for a Humane Economy
Washington, D.C.

Annie Harvilicz
President
Animal Wellness Foundation

Shawn Smeallie
The Jockey Club
New York, NY

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Britta Starke
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Advocates for Wild Equines National Grassroots Lobbying Coalition

Laurie Hood
Founder/CEO
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Rebekah Keat and Siri Lindley
Horses in Our Hands

Rebekah Keat and Siri Lindley
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Lisa Jacobson, DVM
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Animal Behavior and Healing
Portland, ME

Sgt. Joe Cummings
Mounted Unit Supervisor, Parker, CO Police
Board Member, North American Mounted Commanders Assoc.
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Contractor, U.S. Department of Justice