

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to commend you and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins for taking swift action to protect American agriculture from the growing threat of New World Screwworm (NWS) along our southern border. Your recent decision to halt live animal exports to Mexico as part of USDA's emergency response to the northward movement of this parasitic fly was an important step to protect American agriculture, animal health and our livestock industry.

Suspending the export of live horses to Mexico, among the many actions taken by your Administration, was a wise and necessary step. The movement of animals across borders creates additional opportunities for NWS to spread, making eradication efforts more difficult and costly for both the United States and Mexico. Preventing unnecessary animal movements during this crisis helps protect American livestock, horses, pets, wildlife and taxpayers. It is a commonsense step that benefits both nations and helps prevent further losses to agriculture and animal health.

We respectfully urge your Administration to build on these efforts by issuing an Executive Order permanently prohibiting the export of American horses to Mexico for slaughter.

Last year, roughly 20,000 American horses were shipped across the border for slaughter, with much of the resulting horse meat exported overseas for human consumption. This trade does not reflect American values. Americans do not view horses as livestock raised for food. They are valued for their role in sport, competition, recreation and law enforcement, and have been throughout our nation's history.

The Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act reflected the strong bipartisan view that animals traditionally regarded as companions should not be slaughtered for human consumption. Horses likewise have never been raised for food in the United States. We believe the export of American horses for slaughter is inconsistent with the values held by most Americans, and we hope this issue is viewed through that same lens.

There is broad opposition among Americans to horse slaughter, and ending this export pipeline would align federal policy with those views while advancing animal welfare. The SAFE Act in Congress has 230 House cosponsors and broad bipartisan support, including dozens of Republican Members who support ending the horse slaughter trade. In fact, an amended version of the legislation prohibiting the transport of equines intended for slaughter for human consumption was recently included in the Build America 250 Act upon passage out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The New World Screwworm crisis underscores why the long-distance transport of horses for slaughter should become a thing of the past. It creates unnecessary disease risks while generating little economic benefit for our country.

Just as America is working to secure our southern border against illegal crossings and illicit trafficking, we should also take every reasonable step to prevent the spread of animal diseases that threaten our livestock industry, pets, wildlife and economy.

Your Administration has already taken important action to address this threat. We respectfully urge you to make these protections permanent. A permanent ban on the export of American horses for slaughter would help protect horses from cruelty, strengthen our defenses against New World Screwworm and uphold American values.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and for your continued efforts to protect American agriculture and animal health.

Sincerely,

Rep. Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

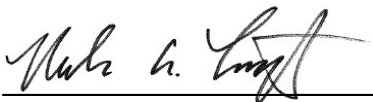
cc: The Honorable Brooke Rollins



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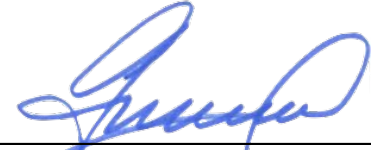
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