

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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

September 14, 2026

Dear Mr. President,

We write to associate ourselves with a [letter sent recently by over a dozen of our Republican colleagues](#) who recommended that you issue an Executive Order to end exports of American horses to foreign countries for slaughter for human consumption.

We commend your Administration for taking swift action to protect American agriculture from the growing threat of New World Screwworm along our southern border by halting the export of horses to Mexico. Last year, roughly 20,000 horses were shipped across the southern border for slaughter, and much of the resulting meat was exported overseas for human consumption, primarily to Asia. The movement of animals across borders allows diseases to spread, and the necessary public health interdictions entail costs for taxpayers. Since New World Screwworm is an ongoing challenge, we believe USDA's current restriction on exports of horses to Mexico for slaughter should be made permanent.

Making this policy permanent would also show our values to the rest of the world. To your great credit, in your first term you signed the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act, finally ending the sale of meat from animals that so many Americans love and cherish as family members. America's equestrians also feel a close kinship with their horses and enshrining similar protections for horses would further demonstrate your continuing commitment as a champion of animal welfare.

The thoroughbred racing industry and the animal welfare community are united in support of this policy. The domestic sale of horse meat for human consumption was effectively ended nearly 20 years ago by an appropriations restriction enacted by Congress, which has been annually renewed ever since. Now is the time to make that policy permanent. America's horses are an iconic symbol of our westward expansion, and today horses are valued for their roles in sporting competitions, law enforcement, recreation, companionship, and therapy for kids and veterans.

Bipartisan House legislation to end horse slaughter, H.R. 1661, the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, currently has 230 cosponsors—a majority of the entire House of Representatives. The late Senator Lindsay Graham was the leader of the Senate companion measure, S. 775, and we think it would be a fitting tribute to his name and legacy to issue such an Executive Order to finally resolve this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this important and timely issue.

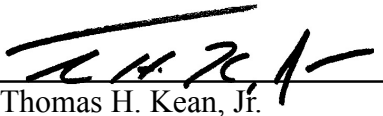
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Sincerely,



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



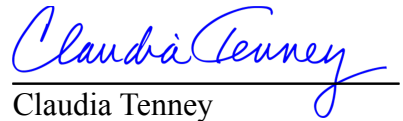
Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



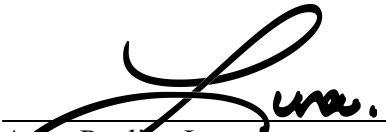
Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Anna Paulina Luna
Member of Congress

cc: Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture