

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 104

BY AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1 TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS  
2 ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE  
3 OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.  
4

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixtieth  
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, since the year 2007, all horse processing facilities through-  
9 out the United States have been closed, resulting in an ever increasing issue  
10 of concern for many citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, federal legislation has been introduced to amend Title 18 of  
12 the U.S. Code to make it illegal to knowingly possess, ship, transport, pur-  
13 chase, sell, deliver or receive any horse intended for human consumption;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, annual congressional appropriation provisions enacted since  
16 fiscal year 2008 have prohibited the expenditure of any federal funding for  
17 the inspection of horses prior to processing for human consumption and pro-  
18 hibited the United States Department of Agriculture from issuing rules that  
19 provide for a user-fee system for inspections; and

20 WHEREAS, the loss of secondary markets has severely impacted the live-  
21 stock industry by eliminating the salvage value of horses and has dramati-  
22 cally reduced the market value of all horses; and

23 WHEREAS, prohibitions regarding the processing of horses have resulted  
24 in significant increases in abandoned and starving animals and have had sig-  
25 nificant economic impact on the entire equine industry. The Humane Society  
26 of the United States has acknowledged the extreme costs and staff time needed  
27 to shelter unwanted horses; and

28 WHEREAS, the American Association of Equine Practitioners has esti-  
29 mated the cost of a horse's basic care is approximately \$1,825 annually not  
30 including veterinary and farrier care; and

31 WHEREAS, the National Horse Protection Coalition, a proponent of pro-  
32 cessing bans, acknowledges that rescue organizations will not adopt all un-  
33 wanted horses and some will indeed be euthanized; and

34 WHEREAS, the American Horse Protection Association has observed that  
35 not all sanctuaries may have the means or business skills to take in large  
36 numbers of horses, and that no nationwide standard-setting or oversight sys-  
37 tem exists for them at this time; and

38 WHEREAS, in 2006, the last full year in which horse processing was done  
39 in the United States, 105,000 surplus horses were processed. The United  
40 States Bureau of Land Management was housing in excess of 31,000 surplus wild  
41 horses in holding facilities as of September, 2009; and

42 WHEREAS, issues related to the humane handling and processing of sur-  
43 plus horses are best addressed by proper regulations and inspection and

1 state agriculture and rural leaders recognize the necessity and benefit of a  
2 state's ability to direct the transport and processing of horses.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
4 sion of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Repre-  
5 sentatives concurring therein, that Congress is urged to oppose federal leg-  
6 islation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport and  
7 processing of horses and is encouraged to discontinue language in the yearly  
8 appropriation bills which has effectively ended processing of horses in the  
9 United States.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is  
11 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the  
12 President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker  
13 of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delega-  
14 tion representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.