

EXHIBIT 12  
DATE 2/12/09  
NB 418

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB418 and am writing to encourage your assistance in the passage of this bill.

Animal rights activists have spread a lot of misinformation on the horse slaughter situation across the United States. Those of us in the livestock industry would also like our voices heard and to set the record straight. The horse is considered livestock, not a pet or a companion. Each year we pay an assessment tax for owning these animals and receive a tax deduction as a business expense. The horse is therefore considered private property by the government, and as long as private property is treated humanely, the government cannot tell someone what to do with it.

The closure of horse slaughter plants in Texas and Illinois has resulted in a large number of unwanted horses throughout the United States. One third of all horse owners make less than \$50,000 annually, and without the choice to sell their horses to slaughter plants more dangerous and inhumane methods are being used to dispose of them. Horse owners are unable to care for these animals due to the downturn in the economy, high feed costs, a lack of use of the animal, or shortage of personal land to run them on. These horses are being turned out on roads, government and private lands and are essentially being abandoned. They are left to be hit by vehicles (thus posing a threat to humans), or to starve to death, die of disease or untreated injury.

In essence, these lower level horses have no economic value. No time in American history has livestock in the United States been so reduced to such a worthless commodity. During the Revolutionary War, the tragic Civil War, the Indian Wars, and the Great Depression the horse held its value. During wartime, peacetime, a turbulent economy and the fluctuation of supply and demand, the horse has continued its value until now. Montana is in a unique position to help the horse industry of our beloved state as well as the rest of the nation. In addition, we can create an economic stimulus here in our own state by adding to our tax base and job pool.

The American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Montana Quarter Horse Association and other livestock organizations have gone on record as supporting horse slaughter. We care about our horses and the industry and the future of the horse in the United States. Our goal is to obtain a long term solution which is something our opponents did not facilitate when the plants were closed. Horse owners can still place their horses in sanctuaries or give them away to a owner in better circumstances, but as a member of this industry we should be able to have a choice as where our horses, our personal property, goes. We encourage you to put common sense back into the horse industry and support HB418.

Respectfully,

*Will Brewster*  
7823 Sprunghill comm. RD  
Belgrade MT 59714  
(Will Brewster)

February 9, 2009

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Respectfully,

Wendy Mandville, Member of Montana Quarter Horse Association

& American Quarter Horse Association

# Judiciary Committee Rejects Conyers Plan to Criminalize Horse Processing in U.S.

By Cheryl K. Chumley

Environmental activist groups often propose well-meaning laws that sound good but would ultimately have negative real-world consequences for people and the environment alike. Responding to just such a proposal, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee wisely decided to reject a 2008 bill that would have criminalized the transport of horses for slaughter leading to human consumption.

Under the bill, spearheaded by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), anyone caught possessing, selling, transporting, or purchasing horses for slaughter or possessing the meat from processed horses would be fined or jailed up to three years.

## Overpopulation Harms

On the surface, such opposition to horse slaughter for human consumption appears noble. No one of sound mind is happy that horses—the pride of the American West, star of numerous Hollywood productions, and image of untamed independence—are being bound and put

to death.

By playing on people's sympathy for horses and avoiding the realities of environmental constraints, activists have convinced well-intentioned but under-informed citizens to support a ban on horse slaughter. The tools of the anti-slaughter side are simple, yet powerful: emotional videos, graphic photographs, and accompanying stories of abuse.

**"By playing on people's sympathy for horses and avoiding the realities of environmental constraints, activists have convinced well-intentioned but under-informed citizens to support a ban on horse slaughter."**

In 2007, the last three horse slaughter plants in America—located in California, Illinois, and Texas—were closed, due in part to pressures on state legislatures from animal rights' groups. These plants

were foreign-owned but covered by U.S. Agriculture Department standards, and the unwanted horses sent there were processed and sold as food to markets in other countries where horse meat is common fare.

## Unintended Consequences

Recently passed laws prohibiting horse processing mean U.S. horses must be transported outside the country, to Canada or Mexico, for processing. Conyers' bill would have prohibited even that from occurring, forbidding the transport or sale of horses for such processing.

The existing bans already have had negative unintended consequences, as foreign processing plants do not always adhere to the standards for ethical treatment of animals that had governed U.S. processing plants.

Animal rights activists propose to solve this problem by having taxpayers pay for construction and maintenance of horse shelters. With approximately 150,000 horses abandoned or sold at auction by their owners as unwanted, and a price tag of \$2,000 per year per horse



Rep. John Conyers sought to jail or fine anyone possessing, selling, transporting, or purchasing horses for slaughter.

for retirement care, the effort would cost taxpayers \$300 million per year.

Cheryl K. Chumley (ckchumley@aol.com) lives in horse country in Virginia and is a research fellow of The Heartland Institute.

# New York State Bans Insect Foggers

**Continued from page 1  
Safe When Used Correctly**

The ban comes by way of Pete Gran-

within hours.

Despite the evidence that foggers are safe when used correctly, Grannis and

sonal use, nor further intrusions of government upon individual rights, Logomasi said.

later or never."

Other examples of Frieden intervening unnecessarily in personal decisions include the "fruitless ban on trans fats and the forced listing of calorie counts in chain restaurants," Ross said.

To Whom it may concern:

The following names have been added as co-sponsors

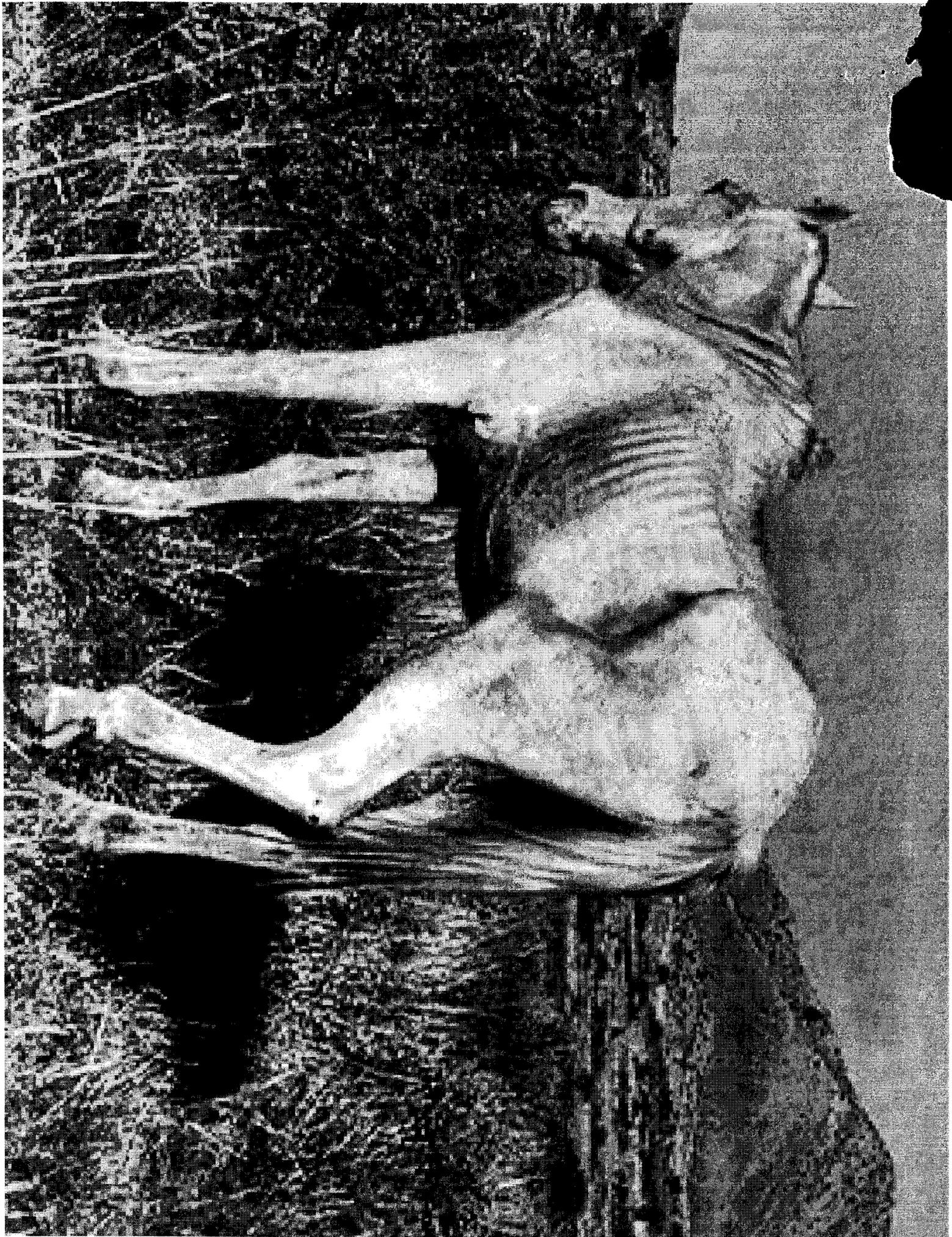
To house bill 418.

Representatives :

24  
-  
Duane Ankney , Tony Belcourt, Tom Berry, Margaret Campbell,  
Cynthia Hiner, Brian Hoven, Llew Jones, Dave Kasten, Krayton  
Kerns, Harry Klock, Bill McChesney, Mike Miller, Michael More,  
Lee Randall, Keith Regier, Scott Reichner, Don Roberts, Cary  
Smith, Wayne Sahl, Gordan Vance, Chas Vincent, Bob Wagner,  
Wendy Warburton, Jeffery Welborn. *David Roundstone*

Senators:

12  
-  
Keith Bales, Debby Barrett, Taylor Brown, Kelly Gebhardt, Greg  
Hinkle, Terry Murphy, Jim Peterson, Rick Ripley, Don  
Steinbeisser, Bruce Tutvedt, Jon Windy Boy, Ryan Zinke



**Senator Butcher (3rivers)**

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**From:** BN [lnelsonbuck@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10:48 AM  
**To:** senatorbutcher@3riversdbs.net  
**Subject:** HB 418  
**Attachments:** mthorse.bmp

Full Support for HB 418! I have grown up and lived in the horse industry thru and thru and still do today. The closer of slaughter houses for horses has been horrific for the animals. If people who were in favor of closing slaughter houses that do not actually even own horses, want to see what is happening to these animals, they would be horrified. I think the picture I attached to this is a example of what HUNDREDS of horses are going thru, and this is one of the better pictures of a horse that has been turned out. Imagine what this horse went thru during these winter months. How did he survive...I bet he never, but put your self in his hoofs and imagine the death that he endured. Horses all over are actually being hauled to state parks, open land, just anywhere and dumped to survive on there own. Do you know what those animals look like today. They are literally starving to death, and are so weak they go down and lay there unable to get up for days, before there body actually shuts down and lets them die. That is inhuman and suffering beyond your belief. For the next 3-4 days, everytime you eat or get a drink of water, imagine yourself laying out in the middle of no where to weak to get up and knowin you are gonna die. That is what these animals are going thru, wouldn't a slaughter house be an blessing to them? Its just reality that horses are going to get old, some of them just dont have the mind to ever make a good working horse, and accidents happen, and horses get hurt? Where do you take these horses? What is the best option for them right now? We all know what is happening to them, there suffering the worst deaths of all. Why not let there body be used for something productive that helps this world be successful in many ways? WHY WHY WHY? That is what I am asking? Its better then letting them suffer day and night until they finally just die. People can take there true pet th ere dog or cat to the human society any day of the week and drop it off, and that is legal. Enough dogs get killed in the United states each year to fill a professional football stadium THREE TIMES, top to bottom, tell me what is right about that? Please please help these horses stop suffering. PLEASE SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 418, your the only hope these animals have left, my heart is bleeding for them.

SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 418

BUCKSHOT NELSON  
LORING, MONTANA

