



Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003 www.awionline.org
telephone: (202) 337-2332 facsimile: (202) 446-2131

SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. 12

DATE 3-12-09

BILL NO. HB418

TO: Montana State Legislature **DATE: March 11, 2009**
FROM: Chris Heyde, Deputy Director
RE: Federal Prohibition on Funding Federal Horse Slaughter Inspectors

There appears to be some misinformation going around on the potential of horse slaughter in the State of Montana. With or without this state bill, horse slaughter would be prohibited in the state. All slaughterhouses that export meat to other states or out of the US are required by federal law to have federal inspectors. The language below, currently on the books, prohibits that from happening.

The FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill recently passed by the US House of Representatives and US Senate contains the language below. This language is identical to that included in the FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act. According to the Federal Meat Inspection Act, federal inspectors are REQUIRED to inspect all meat transported between states and out of the US. Therefore, nothing could leave the state of Montana. It would be in violation of federal law and EU regulations would prevent its sale. Violation of this would be a federal offence and not subject to the proposed bill's restriction on state court action.

H.R. 1105

SEC. 739. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to--

- (1) inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);
- (2) inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104-127); or
- (3) implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations.

This division may be cited as the 'Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009'.