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To: Senator Jolie Justus

cc: file

Senator Justus, we were delighted to hear from Sen. Dan Clemens that HB 1747 would go no further this legislative session. We were equally appalled to learn that Rep. James Viebrock added the provisions of HB 1747 to an unrelated bill, SB 795 and that House Committee Substitute version of S.B. 795 is scheduled to be voted on at any time in the House.

As a result of this maneuver, the public will have no hearing on the pro-horse slaughter provisions. We would appreciate it if you would share the following information with the senators that will be voting on this bill: Proposed MO Law Would Poison Euro and Lat Am Consumers, by Steve Long, Horseback Magazine; and a study, "Association of phenylbutazone usage with horses bought for slaughter: A public health risk", published recently in Journal of Food and Chemical Toxicology

Food safety is a major concern with horse slaughter. The FDA and EU strictly forbid animals that have received prohibited substances at any time in their life from entering the food chain. Beginning in July, 2010, the EU will enforce its regulations by requiring certificates that horses have not received certain prohibited substances for 6 months. By 2013 horses sent for slaughter must be accompanied by records from birth that show they have never ingested certain substances. Because there is no tracking system, such as the passport system in Europe, how will Missouri assure food safety? Horses frequently change owners and without records from birth, it is virtually impossible to guarantee the horse has never received prohibited substances.

Recently, Hardin MT which was considering a horse slaughter plant, determined that the cost to overhaul the waste water system would be between \$4m and \$6M. Needless to say, the town decided not to build a horse slaughter facility. The total economic cost to the community is an important aspect that reaches far beyond the actual cost of the plant.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter and decision before your State Senate.

Equine Welfare Alliance