

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 16

By: Coates of the Senate

and

5 Renegar of the House
6

7 AS INTRODUCED
8

9 A Concurrent Resolution urging opposition to federal
10 legislation banning horse slaughter; affirming
11 support for public health; and directing
12 distribution.

13 WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 horses were slaughtered in the
14 United States last year as food for zoos and exported for human
15 consumption; and

16 WHEREAS, there is no evidence that the consumption of horse meat
17 poses any food safety or public health risk; and

18 WHEREAS, Congress will be considering the American Horse
19 Slaughter Prevention Act (AHSPA--H.R. 503), federal legislation
20 which would forbid the slaughter of American horses for human
21 consumption; and

22 WHEREAS, banning horses from slaughter infringes on producers'
23 rights to manage livestock according to commonly accepted
24 agricultural practices and sets a dangerous precedent for banning
other foods for reasons other than food safety or public health; and

1 WHEREAS, the banning of horse slaughter would eliminate the only
2 market for unwanted, unmanageable, and neglected horses and increase
3 the number of suffering horses and painful deaths; and

4 WHEREAS, without the ability to recapture value for horses, some
5 owners could abandon or neglect the animals, creating a burden on
6 local governments responsible for animal control; and

7 WHEREAS, serious environmental hazards could be caused by other
8 methods of disposal of these animals; and

9 WHEREAS, Oklahoma is home to more than 326,000 head of horses,
10 ranking first in number of horses per capita in the nation, and
11 ranking fifth in number of horses per square mile.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
13 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
14 CONCURRING THEREIN:

15 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature urges Congress to oppose any
16 federal legislation banning the commonly accepted agricultural
17 practice of slaughtering horses.

18 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature affirms its support for the
19 disposal of livestock in a manner that does not endanger the
20 environment or risk the public health of the American people.

21 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Oklahoma's
22 Congressional delegation.

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