

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY
THE FEASIBILITY OF THE REINTRODUCTION OF HORSE SLAUGHTER AND
PROCESSING OF HORSE MEAT.

WHEREAS, in recent years, the slaughter and processing of
horses has become a controversial and emotional issue, which
has resulted in the closing of the last horse processing and
slaughter facility in the United States; and

WHEREAS, thousands of unwanted horses are exposed to
abandonment and neglect annually because of the cessation of
horse slaughter in the United States; and

WHEREAS, horses from the United States have been shipped
to Canada and Mexico and potentially exposed to inhumane
slaughter; and

WHEREAS, the nation's inadequate and overburdened horse

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1 rescue and adoption facilities cannot begin to handle the
2 influx of additional unwanted and abandoned horses each year
3 that result from the cessation of equine slaughter, processing
4 and transport activity; and

5 WHEREAS, the current economic downturn has added
6 significantly to the problem of abandoned and neglected horses;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the federal inspection program governing horse
9 slaughter and facilities has been reinstated; and

10 WHEREAS, a number of states, including Arkansas, Arizona,
11 Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North
12 Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming, have considered a variety
13 of bills and resolutions opposing efforts to restrict the
14 market, transport, processing or export of horses; and

15 WHEREAS, there is a critical need for humane horse
16 processing facilities in the United States to reduce the
17 suffering inflicted on unwanted and abandoned horses and to
18 meet overseas export markets for horse meat in a humane manner;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of
21 agriculture be requested to undertake a study of the
22 feasibility of humane horse slaughter and processing facilities
23 being established in New Mexico; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department report its
25 findings and recommendations to the appropriate committee of

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1 the legislature by December 1, 2013; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
4 agriculture.

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