

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Senate Commerce, Science, and
Transportation Committee
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science, and
Transportation Committee
428 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

July 13, 2026

Re: Support for the Provision Barring the Transportation of Horses to Slaughter in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill

Dear Speaker Johnson, Democratic Leader Jeffries, Chair Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Majority Leader Thune, Democratic Leader Schumer, Chair Cruz, and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We, the undersigned organizations representing horse industry leaders, farmers, owners, and breeders, write to **strongly reaffirm our unwavering support for the provision barring the transportation of horses to slaughter included in the House's surface transportation reauthorization bill (BUILD America 250 Act, H.R. 8870)**. This language was adopted via the Van Drew-Titus Amendment (120) by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee during its markup of the bill, with strong bipartisan support. As a reminder, this language also passed the full House by voice vote during the last reauthorization in 2021. Indeed, a federal ban

on horse slaughter has successfully made its way through both Energy & Commerce and Agriculture Committees and the full House over the years. We urge you to retain this critical provision in the surface transportation reauthorization bill and ensure its swift passage.

Horse slaughter is overwhelmingly unpopular, with 83% of the American public calling for an end to this inherently cruel practice. Horse slaughter should not be conflated with humane euthanasia. There is nothing humane about horse slaughter, and it in no way resembles the euthanasia that respectable horse owners strive to provide their horses when appropriate. Instead, horse slaughter involves a long and dangerous journey across our borders and, for the horses who survive the trek, culminates in a slaughter process where horses face an unimaginably inhumane end.

In 2023, the total value added to the U.S. economy from the equine industry was \$177 billion. The racing sector alone generated over \$36 billion in total economic impact (direct, indirect, and induced spending) and supports more than 490,000 jobs across the United States. Caring for our equine companions and partners in work and sport continually supports numerous equine and equine-adjacent industries in the U.S., including farmers who produce grain and hay, equine professionals who provide boarding, training, transportation, veterinary, and farrier care, shows and other exhibitions, tack and supply shops, and many more. When one of our horses is exported for slaughter, the U.S. equine industry immediately feels that loss; the only beneficiaries are foreign businesses.

Indeed, the fate of the equine industry depends on the American public's continued trust that the horses they cherish and admire – at racetracks, in show rings, on trails and riding paths, on family and commercial farms, and more – are being well cared for. Sending horses to slaughter, a practice not even permitted within our own borders, is the ultimate betrayal of that trust.

We respectfully urge you to support the will of your colleagues who voted for this amendment, the horse industry, and the American public, and continue to support the Van Drew-Titus amendment to ensure our horses are protected from this wholly unnecessary and abhorrent practice.

Sincerely,

1/ST Racing
Airdrie Stud
Breeders' Cup LTD
Brook Ledge, Inc.
Bullseye Horse Transportation, LLC
California Thoroughbred Trainers
Churchill Downs Incorporated
Claiborne Farm
Claim to Fame Racing

Coolmore America
Crawford Farms
D.J. Stable
Del Mar Thoroughbred Club
Delta Squad Racing, LLC
Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, LLC
Emerald Downs Racetrack
Fasig-Tipton Company, Inc.
Gainesway Farm

Glen Hill Farm
Go Go Greys Stable, LLC
Godolphin
Hambletonian Society
Hanover Shoe Farm
Hill 'n' Dale Farms
Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority
Hunterton Farm
J.R. Hudson Horse Transportation, Inc.
Jockeys' Guild
Judge Manning Horse Transportation, Inc.
Keeneland Association, Inc.
Lane's End Farm
Little Red Feather Racing
Machmer Hall Farm
Maryland Horse Council
Mill Ridge Farm
MJR Horse Transportation, Inc.
Monmouth Park
Moon Tower Ranch
National Black Farmers Association
National Horsemen's Benevolent and
Protective Association
National Thoroughbred Alliance
National Thoroughbred Racing Association
New England Horsemen's Council
New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program

New York Racing Association
Ocala Breeders' Sales Co. (OBS)
Ocala Stud
Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association
Phipps Stable
Repole Stable
Retired Racehorse Project
Southern California Equestrian Center
Spendthrift Farm
StarLadies Racing
Starlight Racing
Stonestreet Farm
Taylor Made Farm
Ten Strike Racing
Texas State Horse Council
The Jockey Club
Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance
Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders
Association
Thoroughbred Owners of California
Three Chimneys Farm
U.S. Harness Racing Alumni Association
U.S. Trotting Association
W.J. Barry Horse Transportation
West Point Thoroughbreds
Westlake Racing Stable, LLC
WinStar Farm