1   State of Arkansas

2   87th General Assembly

3   Regular Session, 2009   HCR   1004

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5   By: Representative Ragland

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8   **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9   REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

10   AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT

11   HORSE PROCESSING FACILITIES.

12

13   **Subtitle**

14   REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL

15   DELEGATION AND THE CONGRESS OF THE

16   UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT HORSE

17   PROCESSING FACILITIES.

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20   WHEREAS, horse processing is the most tightly regulated animal harvest;

21   and

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23   WHEREAS, horse processing is the only animal processing for which

24   transportation is regulated; and

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26   WHEREAS, the Horse Welfare Coalition estimates that annually ninety

27   thousand (90,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) unwanted horses will be

28   exposed to potential abandonment and neglect if horse processing plants are

29   forced to close and horse export options are eliminated; and

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31   WHEREAS, those ninety thousand (90,000) to one hundred thousand

32   (100,000) unwanted horses will compete each year for adoption with the

33   thirty-two thousand (32,000) wild horses that United States taxpayers are

34   currently paying forty million dollars ($40 million) to shelter and feed; and

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36   WHEREAS, the nation's inadequate, overburdened, and unregulated horse

1 rescue and adoption facilities cannot handle the influx of approximately

2 sixty thousand (60,000) or more additional horses each year that would result

3 from a harvesting ban, according to the Congressional Research Service; and

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5   WHEREAS, many zoo animal diets rely on equine protein because it

6 closely resembles the food that the zoo animal would consume in the wild; and

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8   WHEREAS, many veterinarians and animal nutritionists assert that equine

9 protein is the healthiest diet for big cats and rare birds; and

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11   WHEREAS, the only source of equine protein that is inspected by the

12 United States Department of Agriculture will be eliminated if federal

13 legislation shuts down horse processing facilities,

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15   NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH

17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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19   That the House of Representatives of the Eighty-seventh General

20 Assembly of the State of Arkansas requests all members of the Arkansas

21 congressional delegation to support the continuation of horse processing in

22 the United States and to offer incentives that help create horse processing

23 plants, such as state-inspected horse harvest for export.

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25   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Eighty-

26 seventh General Assembly of the State of Arkansas urges the Congress of the

27 United States to support new horse processing facilities and the continuation

28 of existing facilities on both the state and national level.

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30   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Eighty-

31 seventh General Assembly of the State of Arkansas urges the Congress of the

32 United States to oppose S. 311 and H.R. 503 of the 110th Congress and to

33 support the processing of horses in the United States and internationally.

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35   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Eighty-

36 seventh General Assembly of the State of Arkansas supports the location of

1 United States Department of Agriculture-approved horse processing facilities

2 on state, tribal, or private lands under mutually-acceptable and market-

3 driven land leases and, if necessary, a mutually-acceptable assignment of

4 revenues that meets the needs of all parties involved with the horse

5 processing facility; and

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7   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, after adoption, copies of this resolution

8 shall be sent by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the

9 members of Arkansas's congressional delegation, the President of the United

10 States Senate, and the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

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