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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 14, 2004

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Ms. Mary Ausley
2895 Johnson Road
Southlake, Texas 76092

Dear Ms. Ausley:

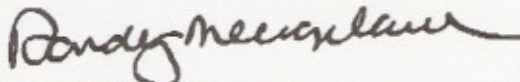
Thank you for contacting me regarding H.R. 857, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. I appreciate knowing your views on this legislation.

Representative John Sweeney introduced H.R. 857, a bill to prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption last year. The bill has been referred to three committees, but none of them have taken any action on the bill to date.

While the intentions behind this legislation are good, I am concerned with the unintended consequences of banning horse slaughter in the United States. According to organizations such as the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Quarter Horse Association, there are not enough horse rescue, adoption or other related facilities to care for the 50,000 to 100,000 horses each year that would otherwise go to slaughter. Without sufficient infrastructure to take in and care for these animals, animal neglect and inhumane treatment would likely increase.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of service to you in the future. If you would like to receive regular updates on my actions in Congress please visit the 19th District's website at www.randy.house.gov and sign up for regular e-newsletters.

Sincerely,



Randy Neugebauer

RN/pa