

ROBERT REDFORD

July 5, 2006

Dear Representative:

I am writing to express my support for the **American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (HR 503)**, introduced by Representatives John Sweeney (R-NY), John Spratt (D-SC) and Ed Whitfield (R-KY). This legislation would place a permanent ban on horse slaughter in the United States.

For the past five years legislation to prevent the slaughter of America's horses has been stuck in committee. This is despite overwhelming support from the American people and the Congress to end horse slaughter. Last year's landslide victory of a budget amendment, which sought to ban horse slaughter for 1 fiscal year, is evidence of both the public's and our lawmakers' commitment to this important issue. I would remind you also of the 1971 Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act, which passed without a single dissenting vote and was considered the most emotional piece of legislation with exception of the Vietnam War.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act is finally being given the opportunity for a fair vote. I want to lend my full support to this long overdue legislation.

The horse holds a special place in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Through the centuries, the horse has faithfully served humankind. They pulled our plows, carried our soldiers into battle, and made it possible for pioneers to make their historic journey across the vast plains to settle the West. Our nation was built on their backs.

The horse has no equal in its ability to stir the passions and inspire the spirit. Whether it is the sound of thundering hooves as wild horses move across the open planes, the unbridled heart and stamina of a thoroughbred racehorse driving for the finish line, or the gentle old steed carrying a young child on his or her first ride, the horse will always be sacred to the American people.

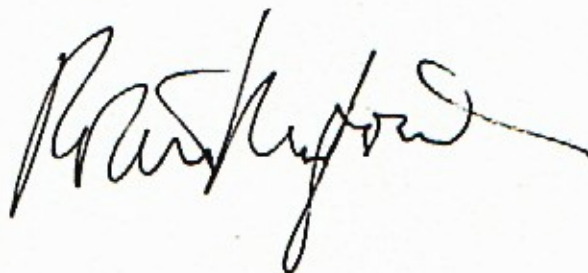
The practice of slaughtering horses for human consumption goes against everything that we value as a society and a culture. It belittles

the role that they played in shaping our nation, inflicts needless suffering, and is the ultimate betrayal to an animal that has given so much.

In 2004, language was inserted into a massive Appropriations bill that condemned even our wild horses to slaughter. The American wild horse is an enduring symbol of grace, power, and freedom. It is permanently woven into the tapestry of American culture and remains an icon of the West. It would be a tragic mistake to allow this noble creature to disappear from our western landscape and to meet with such a barbaric end. As a nation and as a people, we are capable of doing better. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the horse.

I hope that you will join me at this historic moment in this effort to protect and preserve America's wild and domestic horses by voting "yes" on the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (HR503). Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Kuntz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.