

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

02/16/2023 01:30 PM

SB23-038 Prohibit Equine Slaughter For Human Consumption

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kate Mondragon For themselves	As a stakeholder and tax payer I wish to comment on SB23-038. I do not approve of slaughter for human consumption or any other reason. The slaughter trade has not advanced past the dark ages, it breeds criminality and deportation. It is inhumane and cruel, slaughter houses were banned in the US for those reasons so how is it that we add another layer of credulity and suffering by asking these horses to jump on a transport and travel in all conditions thousands of miles exhausted without food water or rest only to be hacked to death in a foreign country? Why does the department of Ag continue to show favor to this industry, no guard rail credibility or accountability, as they turn a blind eye to this horrid practice. Please pass SB 23-038 to create awareness and provide disclosure to the American public.
Gandhi Viswanathan For themselves	I see serious problems in the whole process. I feel disturbed by the conditions of the BLM mustangs, from the time they are rounded up to when they reach their end in the killing pen. In between, the horses are exploited by opportunists every step, all at the expense of the hardworking tax payer. Finally, from an ethical point of view the status quo is just plain wrong.
Heather Jennings For themselves	I want as much protection as possible for these horses. There is no need for any sort of horse slaughter, as there are people all over the country with proper homes. The misuse of public land and allowing private interest dictate how public lands are used is unethical in the least. This horse slaughter seems to be part and parcel of this process. Please protect the wild horses for all time.
Carly Haase Against themselves	Absolutely cruel. The treatment of horses. Please ban slaughtering!!! Horses are incredible animals and have saved my life and many others lives!!!
Kara Hardman For themselves	Please vote for this bill to be instituted, it is very important to me and my family that this bill gets out in place. Thank you

<p>Magali Fanchon For themselves</p>	<p>Every year's thousand and thousand of Americans horses (Colorado included) are exported to Mexico and Canada to be slaughtered for human consumption. Horses slaughter is so cruel , horses face huge trauma and suffering, they are exported in inhumane conditions, transports are so long , they don't have any water or any food , they go to a brutal death in a foreign slaughter, most of the time they are always so close to each other and have no room and some die sometimes because they can not breathe , American people doesn't eat horses, horses are companion and partner , they have feelings and emotions like all other beings, mustangs and burros suppose to be protected and manage out of this cruelty way , I urge to vote in favor of sb2303 to protect Colorado horses , domestic and Wilde , save our horses !!</p>
<p>Bette Davies For themselves</p>	<p>Please say YES on SB 23-038. Anti-slaughter of Horses</p> <p>Horses have served this country and are deserving to be treated well. Unfortunately, that is not the case. It reflects back to our society and we can do better. It is morally wrong. It is surveyed that 83% of the people do not want horses slaughtered.</p> <p>It is unwise and not healthy as horses are administered meds and vaccines. Horses are not burgers.</p> <p>You should witness the cruelty of what horses go through as it is not humane. The long necks of horses moves from the bolt and are dismembered and takes several tries.</p> <p>In Colorado we value our horses. We want to enjoy them whether it is sports, therapeutic, transportation, our viewing pleasure and companions.</p> <p>The mismanagement has been in play for decades. There is fertility control using pzp that has been proven. It is a travesty how wild horses are treated. The Adoption Incentive Program should be phased out. It leads to the long suffering to the cruel death.</p> <p>Please Be Compassiate and say YES on this Bill. There are Better Solutions.</p> <p>Betty Davies</p>

	<p>Arvada, Co. 80005</p> <p>Bette7755@gmail.com</p>
<p>Kathryn Thompson</p> <p>For</p> <p>Wild Hearts Haven</p>	<p>Equines are more than livestock; they have formed our country and helped us win wars. They deserve better treatment</p>
<p>Suzanne Levy</p> <p>For</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>Dear Colorado Assembly members:</p> <p>I am writing this to strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 prohibiting equine slaughter for human consumption in the state of Colorado. As a taxpayer and resident of this state for over 30 years, I am extremely concerned and opposed to this practice for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horse slaughter is verifiably inhumane. It is a brutal and terrifying death for the horses and any argument to the contrary is not supported by the facts. 2. The vast majority of Americans are opposed to horse slaughter. Americans do not consume horse meat and do not want it on their dinner menus. 3. Horse slaughter negatively impacts the US economy. Subsidizing it will divert valuable financial resources away from American products and food safety. It makes no sense for the state or federal government to spend millions of taxpayer dollars to oversee new horse slaughter plants. At a time when Congress is focused on fiscal responsibility and the budget of the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service is already stretched thin, the USDA should not extend funding for a new program to slaughter horses. I, for one, most strongly object to my taxpayer dollars being used for this purpose. 4. Horse slaughter plants have been linked to air and water pollution, lowered property values and increased crime rates in the areas where they're located. <p>As a resident of the state of Colorado and taxpayer, I am strongly urging you to pass SB23-038 and prohibit both horse slaughter and the export of horses for slaughter altogether and to provide our horses with decent lives and, when necessary, humane deaths. Horses helped build this country. It's the least we owe them.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Suzanne Levy</p>

<p>Gail Jennings For themselves</p>	<p>I support bill Sb23-038. I do not believe that the slaughter of wild horses should be a source of income in this country. The management of these beautiful creatures by the BLM borders on criminal and the state of Colorado, which has always been a leader in protecting our wild resources, should prevent the culling of animals in this state.</p>
<p>Erin Peterson For Zuma's Rescue Ranch</p>	<p>The horses at Zuma's have been rescued from horrific situations, including public auctions where these beautiful, sentient beings would otherwise be sent to slaughter over the border to endure even further abuse, neglect and torture. I have witnessed Zuma's work tirelessly with horses who were otherwise destined for certain death such as slaughter until something amazing happens. What some may see as a "lost cause" transforms into a healthy, happy robust horse through unconditional love, diligent care, and a chance. A chance to perhaps be that one horse who can connect with a person who struggles with mental health issues or to be paired with that special equine friend he/she can bond with for life. Or maybe it's just to be somewhere he can trust where he can relax, enjoy the sunshine on his face and know he is free.</p>
<p>Elisabeth Mankamyer For themselves</p>	<p>I have been involved with horses my entire life. My dad ran a horse packing and trail ride business when I was a kid and I have taken riding lessons and owned and leased horses throughout my life.</p> <p>Throughout these experiences with horses, I've had horses get injured, need surgery and have chronic issues from medical conditions. Those injuries and issues have required medication and intervention, including the use of drugs like Phenylbutazone (bute). Bute is used extensively in horses and is banned in the human food chain. Given that many horses are with different owners, moved between states and without any medical history to track, horses that end up in the slaughter pipeline could have had bute extensively throughout their lives and recently and it is irresponsible for these animals to be slaughtered in any way that could result in them being consumed by humans.</p> <p>Moreover, I use bute as just one example. There are countless drugs used in horses that have not been tested or proven to be safe for human consumption. Horses have long lives and often many jobs. Performance horses receive many injections, medications and supplements for various purposes. There has not been adequate research on the myriad drugs used in horses and their impact on humans if those animals are consumed.</p>

	<p>These animals are not raised as food animals and are not safe for human consumption in any way. This is a stark contrast to animals that are regulated as food animals and those animals have strict regulations for permitted drugs, antibiotics, labeling, etc. This cannot be done with horses.</p> <p>Please support this bill. Thank you.</p>
<p>Renee Faulkner For themselves</p>	<p>Although I support a ban on all equine slaughter, I am particularly disturbed how the BLM has used the slaughter pipe line a a tool to dispose of our wild horse off the public land. Slaughter is a trade that breeds criminality and deprivation and has not advanced since the dark ages. Survey says the majority of the American public strongly disagree with equine slaughter. So in 2007 horse slaughter was banned in the United States because it is cruel and inhumane. So please tell my what world do we live in when we add another dimension of cruelty and suffering by asking them to hop on a transport to travel hundreds of miles to be hacked to death in a foreign country. Will we continue to turn a blind eye and absolve ourselves of all accountability or moral responsibilities. And why does our government endorse and support this trade. All the while marginalizing the the majority of the American people.</p> <p>Please support this bill because it will put criminals on alert, create awareness and inform the public and provide disclosures to the American people.</p>
<p>Teresa Hall For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing today to express my support for SB23-038 banning horse transport for slaughter out of state for both wild and domestic horses.</p> <p>The entire horse transport for slaughter and horse slaughter industries are inherently cruel. The people that make their living off of the suffering of horses livelihoods should not be protected.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is the absolute opposite of humane euthenasia. Horses are companion animals in the United States, and should be treasured as such</p>

	<p>throughout their lifetimes. These animals deserve our empathy, compassion, and respect as much as our beloved dogs and cats.</p> <p>It is absolutely sickening that our horses, included old, weak, and injured and already suffering are then subject to the brutal conditions of multiple over crowded transport between live</p> <p>stock auction houses (sometimes multiple), kill pens, foreign feed lots, and the final torture - inhumane death.</p> <p>There is absolutely no way to humanely kill a horse for slaughter. The captive bolt to the head used in cattle does not work for the long-necked</p> <p>flight response horse. Horses are very aware - hyper aware of their surroundings, and have an incredible sense of smell. They know what is happening</p> <p>and they are terrified. Some horses even wake up while they are being dismembered...this is a searchable fact.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is the polar opposite of humane euthanasia (say that twice).</p> <p>The horse slaughter industry is nothing but blatant greed driven animal cruelty and must be stopped!</p> <p>I personally challenge each and every legislator in this room, to search online horse slaughter photos and videos before you</p>
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	<p>cast your vote. If you do not, then you really do not know what you are voting on.</p> <p>Please remember that well over 80% of your voting constituents are for this bill, SB23-038.</p>
<p>Lynda Larsen For National Mustang Association, Inc., Colorado</p>	<p>There are many reasons that SB23-038 should be passed, which would prohibit the purchase of a horse, donkey or mule in Colorado if the buyer knows, or reasonably should know, the intent of the transaction is to send the animal for slaughter and processing into human food.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is NOT euthanasia. A society is only as civilized as it treats all sentient beings humanely. Science has now established, through brain research, that horses experience a range of emotions very similar to humans. Horse slaughter is inhumane, by any definition.</p> <p>Horses sold to kill buyers suffer terribly, crammed into close quarters in trailers where some are trampled, often lethally. Many are horribly injured with no care or treatment. They frequently go without food or water and arrive half starved at slaughter houses in where they rarely suffer painless deaths, and are often subjected to slaughter while still conscious. It was abuses like these that persuaded Congress to outlaw horse slaughter in the U.S. in 2007. Now, greed has found an end run to continue this despicable process by shipping horses across the border to Mexico and Canada, and Congress must act again.</p> <p>The slaughter of equines for meat is not only inhumane, eating horsemeat poses serious health risks. Since U.S. horses are not intentionally raised for food, many are given a wide variety of drugs that make their meat unfit for human consumption.</p> <p>According to HSUS, the vast majority of horses who become victims of the horse slaughter industry could be sold, donated or otherwise rehomed. But once a horse goes to auction, "kill buyers" outbid legitimate horse owners and rescues, robbing horses of ever having a second chance at life.</p>

	<p>Statistics show that 83% of the American public opposes horse slaughter and support this proposed ban. Most Americans see equines as companion animals, known and valued for their ability to connect with humans and become partners in performance, recreation and therapy.</p> <p>Horse slaughter exceeds all other inhumane treatment of animals in its extreme, unnecessary cruelty. While news of Kentucky Derby winners such as Ferdinand being sold to slaughter spark outrage, statistics say that 36,885 horses were shipped to slaughter in Canada and Mexico last year alone.</p> <p>For these reasons and many more, this bill should be law.</p>
<p>Jonathan Van Luik For themselves</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I have worked for the federal government and a couple of state governments, so I sincerely appreciate the hard work you're doing.</p> <p>Horses helped humans build our civilization. They run for us, jump for us, carry us and our children, and allow us to ranch cattle. They are smart, curious, strong, and stoic. They are always looking for treats, and they will conveniently forget who you are if you're not offering them. Last but not least, they are a royal pain when the wind is howling, always giving you the eye, even though you've brushed them the same way thousands of times before.</p> <p>Our society calls that character, and we respect those with character, so horses deserve our protection. They do not deserve the fear of a kill pen or the abuse thereafter. Despite all they do for us, we still send them to slaughter by way of multi day transport with no food or water, in temperatures more than 100 and less than freezing. Equine athletes are often drugged, rendering their remains unfit for human consumption.</p> <p>We have a unique opportunity to do right by them. To allow rescues to do their job and prevent the slaughter pipeline from wasting funds that could help these same horses. Horses need this bill. Please vote yes.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Jonathan Van Luik</p>
<p>Carol Slade</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Ms Lewis,</p> <p>Thank you for bringing this inhumane treatment of America's equines to the spotlight. No animal should be treated in such a callous manner. I wholeheartedly support this bill.</p> <p>Carol Slade</p>
<p>Marie Guldbek</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Horses should not be sent to slaughter. It is cruel and the suffering is horrific. If population control is needed, then stallions should be gelded and set free. Our horses are the spirit and beauty of our land. We need to protect them.</p>
<p>Kirk Guldbek</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Our horses are beautiful and majestic and deserve what is best. It's time we do the right thing and not slaughter them. Hold the stallions if there is a population problem and then return them to freedom.</p>
<p>Linnea Guldbek</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Horses should NOT be round up and sent to slaughter. This is cruel and should not be tolerated. Please do what is right for these beautiful horses.</p>
<p>Geri Rutz</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>As an avid horsewoman for over 20 years in Colorado, I feel like it is absolutely essential that this bill be passed, and that Equine slaughter in Colorado be deemed illegal and immoral. Both domestic and wild horses need to be protected from this inhumane "business" both in Colorado and nationwide.</p>
<p>Heather Hintz</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee members,</p> <p>I am testifying in favor of SB23-038, a bill to protect equines in Colorado from being sold for slaughter and human consumption. This is a very important bill designed to protect all Colorado equines from being sold for human consumption/slaughter.</p>

	<p>I am hopeful this bill will reduce the deaths to our precious wild horses and burros as well as domestic equines. And hold BLM accountable for every single horse and burro they sell to the public.</p> <p>Perhaps this will stop kill buyers from taking our horses to Mexico for slaughter. One notable kill buyer, Tom Davis, bought over 1,700 wild horses from BLM promising to keep them safe and find good homes for them. He admits he sent 99% of them to Mexico for slaughter, even though he agreed to the terms of the sales. He admitted his guilt and He was never prosecuted. This cannot happen again. Ever. Thank you for your time and consideration.. Heather Hintz</p>
<p>Joseph Cummings For themselves</p>	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for letting me express my opinion in this forum. I am currently a Mounted Police Sergeant for a metro area agency and 38-year veteran of law enforcement. I am also a nationally accredited mounted police instructor having traveled to Canada, France, and Ukraine. I am supporting this bill that would prohibit the slaughter and transport of equines for human consumption. As you know we currently have a national ban on this practice in place however, there is nothing prohibiting the transport of horses across the border to Mexico for human consumption. I have been in the horse world for many years and have seen first-hand how these animals are treated and transported from this country. From a sale barn to a private purchase, these horses are typically loaded on a cramped trailer and transported many miles without food or water. There is no consideration given to their health and welfare and they often fall or become injured during transport. They are then loaded into and held in cramped and unsanitary conditions until they are ready to be killed. Many of these horses are simply discarded by owners who thought it was fun to own a horse and become disinterested or for a horse that cannot fulfil its use to the owner. Not to say the horses cannot still be wonderful companions. Horses who cannot be ridden are used in therapy programs, as companion animals, and even to help treat PTSD in military and first responders. In short, there are valuable and do not deserve to be discarded to the kill pens in some other country. By allowing such practice, I feel it is like turning a blind eye to the situation. Once they are on the trucks it's out of sight, out of mind. These animals deserve better than that. We have a national ban on slaughter for a reason. Please close the back door and do not allow them to be taken away just to face slaughter in some place that has little or no regulation or oversight when it comes to the ethical treatment of these magnificent animals. I urge you to pass this bill into law and protect our horses.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>

	Joe Cummings
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Support Bill SB23-038Bette Davies to: committees.lcs.ga 01/31/2023 03:47 PM
Cc: "Bette Davies"

To prohibit Equine slaughter for human consumption. It is a cruel process for Wild Horses to be capture by helicopter some are seriously hurt, foals separated from mares, then shot because of a clubfoot or blue eyes. Then it goes downhill by filthy overcrowded holding pens. Then after their spirit is broken they are adopted out with the intention of putting them in the slaughter pipeline where they are shipped to Mexico or Canada onward to overcrowded shipments where they fall, etc. To Japan, Korea, etc. Facing the blade live which the horse neck turns and takes out an eye, etc. And then only using a 22 rifle that take 3 or 4 shots to kill them. Colorado is better than this. There are better solutions. Please pass this Bill. It is on my bucket list to see Wild Horses in the Wild.

Thank You,
Betty Davies
7755 W. 87th Drive
Arvada, Co. 80005
360-350-2908
Bette7755@gmail.com



SB23-038 Gary Hepner to: committees.lcs.ga 02/01/2023 03:46 PM

Committee members,

- I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from slaughter.
- Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law, yet thousands of American horses are exported to Mexico and Canada to be slaughtered for human consumption each year.
- These icons of our western heritage deserve better treatment than what the federal Adoption Incentive Program is providing. Abuse is widespread in this program. Not only do the adopters collect the \$1000 per animal, they then ship them off to the slaughter houses. There are better options, like fertility control.
- Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.
- America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals.
- SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter.
- I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado's horses, both domestic and wild.

Gary Hepner
Olathe, CO

Front Range Equine Rescue, a Colorado nonprofit horse rescue founded in 1997, highly recommends a 'YES' vote on SBSB23-038.

U.S. horses are not raised or regulated as a food animal; their meat is dangerous for human consumption. Over the course of their lives, horses are given many products, both ingested or topically applied, which contain substances banned for use in food animals.

For years, slaughter numbers have sharply declined.

Ending slaughter won't lead to more starved horses. Many programs exist to support the welfare of Colorado's horses. Animal welfare laws should address issues of neglect or abuse.

Colorado doesn't have an "unwanted" horse issue; horses are bought and sold for many reasons. Kill buyers travel to many states to buy horses to meet slaughter quotas. Auction horses arrive from out of state. Auction buyers want horses, but are often deliberately outbid by slaughter buyers.

The horse industry loses money when horses go to slaughter. Revenues from horse ownership can be tens of thousands of dollars per horse annually based on how a horse is kept and equine related services used. Jobs in the horse industry are many; even non-riding horses have use.

Proven options to slaughter include equine assisted therapy, wounded warrior programs, mounted patrol, guest ranches, riding clubs, educational camps, therapeutic riding programs, and retraining services.



SB23-038karen koop to: committees.lcs.ga 02/02/2023 01:36 PM

Dear Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee members,
I am appalled by and deeply opposed to the slaughter of Colorado wild horses for food for human consumption. These creatures deserve only our respect and support and humane treatment, either free to roam wild or adopted by those who will care for them with love.

Please do not approve this measure.

Karen Koop
Highlands Ranch
CO 80126



Prohibit Equine Slaughter for Human Consumption (SB23-038)Lane Ledbetter to:
committees.lcs.ga 02/04/2023 08:44 AM

- I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from slaughter.
- Each year, thousands of American horses — including from Colorado, are exported to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption in foreign markets.
- Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.
- America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals.
- Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and horse slaughter is not a solution for their management. There are better options, such as fertility control, for keeping these animals in balance with their environment.
- Captured wild horses and burros are at a higher risk of ending up in Colorado’s slaughter pipeline thanks to the federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild, unhandled animal. Abuse in this program is widespread, with individuals collecting the incentive payments and then sending their animals to slaughter auctions.
- SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter.
- I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado’s horses, both domestic and wild.

Thank you,
Lane Ledbetter
Denver, CO 80212



75 South Frontage Road
Vail, Colorado 81657
www.vailgov.com

Environmental Sustainability Department

970.479.2144

February 15, 2023

Dear Chairman Roberts and esteemed members of the Senate Agricultural Committee-

The members of Vail Town Council wish to express their support of the repeal of the statewide preemption on local regulation of pesticides and other landscaping chemicals. Even our small mountain community which is surrounded by two of America's most spectacular wilderness areas has been impacted by overuse and misuse of landscaping chemicals, including neonicotinoid insecticides which numerous studies have shown to have an outsized impact on pollinators and other beneficial insects.

A study conducted by Town of Vail, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District, and their partners from 2009 to 2016 attributed declines in aquatic insect life in Gore Creek in part to the overuse and misuse of "pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizers," in our community. Despite years of education and outreach, the elimination of foliar applied pesticides in town landscaping practices, and millions of dollars spent on restoration of riparian habitat, Gore Creek remains listed as "impaired" by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for low aquatic life.

Vail is a community that cherishes its natural resources. Gore Creek is a destination for anglers and whitewater enthusiasts from across the globe. Irreplaceable ecosystems like Gore Creek are at the heart of Vail's identity and are crucial to the health of its economy. We urge the legislature take this opportunity to empower communities like ours to be good stewards of our economies and ecosystems through thoughtful, scientifically-sound, local regulation of landscaping chemicals.

The Town of Vail values the use of landscaping chemicals in the beautification of our landscaping and as a necessary tool in the control of invasive and deleterious species. However, our community recognizes that pesticides also have potential to cause harm. Vail offers an example of a place where statewide regulations have not adequately protected some of our most cherished resources. Because Colorado is made up of many unique ecosystems and communities, we ask that the state legislature recognize that more nuanced, locally specific regulation of pesticides is justified in certain communities by eliminating the preemption on local control currently contained in the Colorado Pesticide Applicators Act.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Langmaid, Ph.D.
Mayor, Town of Vail

I am writing testimony as a native Coloradan, as a voice of reason, and as a mom deeply connected within Colorado's disability community — a voice that is rarely heard in government matters — as it relates to horses and this important bill.

My daughter, Sarah, was born with a rare genetic disorder, and her physical therapist never thought she was going to ever walk all that well based on her low muscle tone, lack of balance and constant falling, sometimes on her face.

Sarah refused to sit on a vinyl bolster or comply in the clinic probably because of sensory discomforts and an inability to comprehend what was being asked of her, but when we put her on a brown horse named Beau at age 3, she took right to it smiling the whole time.

Someone told me that movement and language are connected, and after the first session on Beau, Sarah was chatty in the backseat the whole ride home. And this is a girl who was nonverbal. It was incredible and I am forever grateful to Beau and many other therapy horses for inspiring my girl to try and speak and learn to walk and run.

Nearly two decades later, she asks Beau to “walk on” and to trot, and because of weekly hippotherapy (riding a horse guided by a skilled therapist), she has built the core stability and inner thigh strength she needs to run, jump and hike precisely because she was highly motivated by her connection and joy from horses that someone had donated after retirement or because the horse didn't fit the work. The horses we meet at hippotherapy centers are former police horses, companion horses, ranch and farm horses young and old. They are given respect and live with dignity, while continuing to help people and are rewarded with grooming, treats and much love. It's truly a win-win situation for horses and people.

Today there is up to a three-year waitlist for anyone who wants to participate in hippotherapy for physical, mental or cognitive challenges. It's crazy to think that Colorado sends its retired farm and ranch horses to slaughter when there is such a need for them to live and help our children thrive.

I've interviewed therapists who know horses. They tell me that many of these horses found at kill auctions could easily be therapy horses in various capacities and existing programs for mental health. We have great examples and programs.

And Colorado needs to do much more to help all people suffering mental health crises due to the pandemic and other stresses, too, and horses that would be thrown away like trash can instead become part of a greater network for healing for so many kids, teens and adults who are suffering in so many ways. I've seen it work.

We can build a humane economy in Colorado that fills the vacuums in our mental health industry, assists horse owners, builds resilience, strength and confidence in our children and of course benefits horses, too.

Thinking of Beau, Smokey, and Robin, and all of the many incredible retired and/or donated horses Sarah has depended on as the key to her being able to walk without falling, run on the playground and hike in the mountains with her family, I cannot imagine that anyone could ever condone sending horses like these off to a fate as horrific as Canadian slaughterhouses where they will linger for months without a kind touch or basic care they deserve by workers who view them as living ghosts for meat.

Thank you!

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Thank you!

January 30, 2023

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RE: OPPOSE SB23-038 Prohibit Equine Slaughter for Human Consumption

Dear Senate Ag Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to SB 23-038 on the prohibition of equine slaughter for human consumption. I am a sheep rancher in Western Colorado and my family also provides permitted outfitting on US National Forest for big game hunting and recreation. We currently own 21 horses and mules for our ranching and outfitting businesses and we keep our horses for life. Even though our horses and mules are working animals, we think of them as valuable members of our ranching family and only wish for their humane treatment even after their jobs are done. The intent of this bill is not particularly clear to me, but my impression is that it is another attempt to strike down animal agriculture in the guise of preventing animal cruelty while in effect actually creating circumstances that will lead to animal neglect. My specific concerns are as follows:

- 1) The criminalization of the sale of equine for human consumption actually sets owners up for less humane ways of dealing with unwanted and/or unusable animals. Humane processing for unwanted horses is a much better ending than being condemned to months or years of neglect, abuse, starvation, or abandonment.
- 2) If this bill were to pass, it could potentially make a rancher/farmer a criminal even without their knowledge and additionally bans them from selling their livestock for a time period that would result in the complete loss of their business.
- 3) Even though most in the U.S. do not choose to consume horse meat, it is a common protein in other parts of the world. I find it morally reprehensible to make this protein source inaccessible to a family in need while giving safe harbor to multimillion dollar zoos and wildlife centers to feed predators whose main purpose is for the recreational viewing pleasure of people who can afford to pay admission. These facilities are widely inaccessible to socioeconomically disadvantaged and rural communities yet they are given more rights than undernourished individuals. This is unconscionable!

Please recognize that this is a dangerous step in the direction of not allowing slaughter of any animal for human consumption and will likely result in harming the animals that it is posing to protect. I am urging you to OPPOSE SB23-038. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Renee Deal
Somerset, CO

January 30, 2023

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Please recognize that this is a dangerous step in the direction of not allowing slaughter of any animal for human consumption and will likely result in harming the animals that it is posing to protect. I am urging you to OPPOSE SB23-038. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Renee Deal
Somerset, CO



Written testimony for SB23-038 Pamela Beets to: LCS Committees 02/02/2023 09:25 AM

Dear Committee,

I support SB23-038 to stop Equine slaughter. I urge you to stop Colorado being a pipeline for the Equine slaughter market.

In addition I would call upon you to expand the scope of this bill beyond Equine slaughter for human consumption but for all reasons. Our own Dr. Temple Grandin condemns the slaughter of horses, I have heard her speak of this several times.

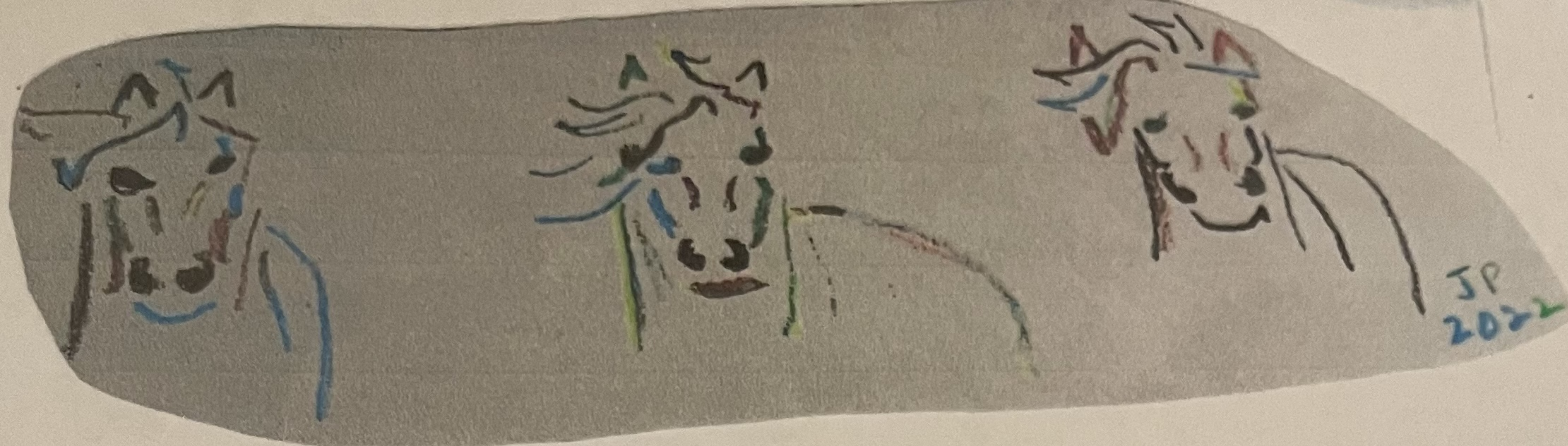
This is a barbaric & ruthless industry. A visit to Colorado ‘kill pens’ would convince you that no animal, especially horses, should have to suffer so greatly and have a brutal & painful end to their life. And yes, that is what they are called. It's not pretty.

I personally know of several instances recently, as well as over 20 years or more, that horse rescue and individuals have purchased BLM mustangs from the kill pens.

Horses are stolen from individuals and put through the slaughter pipeline. Horses are purchased for undervalue with the promise of a “good home for the grandkids” to unsuspecting people and put into the slaughter market.

Horse slaughter is a nasty, brutal, ruthless process. Please stop Colorado’s part in it.

Respectfully,
Pamela Beets
Englewood, CO



PLEASE STOP HORSE SLAUGHTER! PASS SB 23- 038

I am horrified that horses are still being sent to slaughter. Tremendous cruelty is suffered when horses are crowded into trucks and sent to Mexico and Canada to die! Some die on the trip. Many are hurt suffering broken bones, gouged eyes and massive injuries. The horses are not fed. watered or let out during the lengthy transport.

In 2021 23,000 horses were slaughtered. This year according to USDA statistics 26,000 horses have been sent to slaughter. Every year 10,000 race horses are sent to slaughter.

These race horses have made owners wealthy. Carriage horses and trail mounts are sent. BLM wild horses that are adopted often end up in kill pens. A kill buyer Tom Davis adopted 1800 horses and sold them for slaughter.

The USDA states 92.3 % of horses sent to slaughter are healthy and could be rehomed. ASPCA research shows 2.3 million individuals are willing to adopt horses. 70% of Americans are opposed to horse slaughter.

PLEASE STOP HORSE SLAUGHTER! PASS SB 23-0380

Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

02/02/2023 01:30 PM

SB23-038 Prohibit Equine Slaughter For Human Consumption

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kari Mueller For themselves	<p>I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from this senseless and barbaric slaughter!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each year, thousands of American horses — including from Colorado, are exported to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption in foreign markets.• Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.• America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals.• Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and horse slaughter is not a solution for their management. There are better options, such as fertility control, for keeping these animals in balance with their environment.• Captured wild horses and burros are at a higher risk of ending up in Colorado’s slaughter pipeline thanks to the federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild, unhandled animal. Abuse in this program is widespread, with individuals collecting the incentive payments and then sending their animals to slaughter auctions.• SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter.• I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado’s horses, both domestic and wild.
Brenda MAZZUCA For themselves	<p>I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from slaughter.</p>

	<p>Each year, thousands of American horses — including from Colorado, are exported to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption in foreign markets.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.</p> <p>America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals.</p> <p>Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and horse slaughter is not a solution for their management. There are better options, such as fertility control, for keeping these animals in balance with their environment.</p> <p>Captured wild horses and burros are at a higher risk of ending up in Colorado’s slaughter pipeline thanks to the federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild, unhandled animal. Abuse in this program is widespread, with individuals collecting the incentive payments and then sending their animals to slaughter auctions.</p> <p>SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter.</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado’s horses, both domestic and wild.</p>
<p>Ruth Maddux For themselves</p>	<p>I am for prohibiting equine slaughter for human consumption. Abusing these beautiful creatures and then slaughtering them is inhumane and wrong. Colorado has few remnants of the wild west. These wild horses are one of the most beautiful parts of American history and they deserve to be protected.</p>
<p>Joanne Jacobson For themselves</p>	<p>For years our country has taken the position that wild horses specifically have a place in our history and traditions. Our public lands have been set aside for public use and for the protection of wild life.</p> <p>I understand that other countries may not view the equine population as a protected or respected animal but they are an important part of our history.</p> <p>Canadians wouldn’t accept the butchering of polar bears for food/profit because they value the polar bear. Most Canadians don’t eat horse meat except for the French dominated regions. Consequently, most are sent to Japan for slaughter. When ready for shipping, local exporters load horses</p>

	<p>into large trailers where they are taken to the Calgary airport. The horses are then loaded two, three, even four to a crate where critics have claimed they can remain for up to 26 hours until they land in Japan The reason this information is important is because many of the wild horses sold at auction end up going to Canada or Mexico and then from there I turned into profit.</p> <p>We have the means and knowledge to allow wild horses to stay and public lands.</p> <p>Additionally, there really is no need for ranching of horses for sale for slaughter. We have proven with the beef industry that the use of land for meat ranching comes at a price to our ranch lands, and our environment in general.</p> <p>Please allow the slaughter of horses to be outlawed in our country. Sincerely, Joanne Jacobson, Littleton, Colorado.</p>
<p>Lesli St John For themselves</p>	<p>Having a great love of horses and a deep horror of what horses and donkeys are put through via the slaughter pipeline, I adamantly request that my legal representatives protect horses and donkeys from entering the slaughter pipeline in Colorado. The conditions the animals are subjected to are inhumane and cruel. Uncaring owners who have used and abused the animals can drop them off and pay the cost of veterinary care or final acts of kindness. I cruelty is not the answer.</p>
<p>Stacy Patrick For themselves</p>	<p>The citizens of United States of America do not eat horse or donkey meat. Wild horses are federally managed and protected protected and should not be allowed to be very cruelly rounded up and auctioned to be slaughtered for food in another country. Allowing the slaughter of our iconic heritage(wild horses and donkeys) is short sighted.</p> <p>BLM Management can work with using birth control to manage herds. This method is being used sucessfully in herd management. Colorado has no business offering slaughter houses tax payer dollars of \$1000 to take the wild horse and slaughter the horses. How is this patriotic? How is this right? these horses are supposed to be federally protected.And instead are winding up inhumanely taken cruelly to there deaths. To be consumed by people in other countries . This is what happens to our protected iconic wild horses. Do you know how many tourist travel to see wild horses. People love them they are a tourist industry. Why cant the government understand how valuable there ancient bloodlines are and how many people love these horses. Please do not allow wild horses to end up in slaughter houses . They deserve to live free on the land they were promised and the BLM needs to find a more humane way to manage these herds. Teddy Roosevelt the father of conservation would be very upset to</p>

	<p>hear this is the BLMs approach to herd management. The job of the government is to end the horrendous way they ship off these beautiful animals that represent our history and protect them instead of offering them up as food to other countries. This is not a solution. The herds should be allowed to roam freely there is plenty of land. I lived in Carbondale and rode my horse all the time on BLM land you know what i saw too many cattle on that land. NO wild horses just cattle eating . Maybe we need to readjust also how many cows are allowed per acre so that our federally protected horses can live there lives in the wild where they belong. Please work with the BLM they can manage the herds but please lets not send these horses to horrific kill slaughter houses. Please .</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Stacy Patrick</p>
<p>Valerie Jacobson For themselves</p>	<p>For years our country has taken the position that wild horses specifically have a place in our history and traditions. Our public lands have been set aside for public use and for the protection of wild life.</p> <p>I understand that other countries may not view the equine population as a protected or respected animal but they are an important part of our history.</p> <p>Canadians wouldn't accept the butchering of polar bears for food/profit because they value the polar bear. Most Canadians don't eat horse meat except for the French dominated regions. Consequently, most are sent to Japan for slaughter. When ready for shipping, local exporters load horses into large trailers where they are taken to the Calgary airport. The horses are then loaded two, three, even four to a crate where critics have claimed they can remain for up to 26 hours until they land in Japan The reason this information is important is because many of the wild horses sold at auction end up going to Canada or Mexico and then from there I turned into profit.</p> <p>We have the means and knowledge to allow wild horses to stay and public lands.</p> <p>Additionally, there really is no need for ranching of horses for sale for slaughter. We have proven with the beef industry that the use of land for meat ranching comes at a price to our ranch lands, and our environment in general.</p>

	<p>Please allow the slaughter of horses to be outlawed in our country. Sincerely, Valerie Jacobson, Denver, Colorado</p>
<p>Olof Jacobson Against themselves</p>	<p>For years our country has taken the position that wild horses specifically have a place in our history and traditions. Our public lands have been set aside for public use and for the protection of wild life.</p> <p>I understand that other countries may not view the equine population as a protected or respected animal but they are an important part of our history.</p> <p>Canadians wouldn't accept the butchering of polar bears for food/profit because they value the polar bear. Most Canadians don't eat horse meat except for the French dominated regions. Consequently, most are sent to Japan for slaughter. When ready for shipping, local exporters load horses into large trailers where they are taken to the Calgary airport. The horses are then loaded two, three, even four to a crate where critics have claimed they can remain for up to 26 hours until they land in Japan The reason this information is important is because many of the wild horses sold at auction end up going to Canada or Mexico and then from there I turned into profit.</p> <p>We have the means and knowledge to allow wild horses to stay and public lands.</p> <p>Additionally, there really is no need for ranching of horses for sale for slaughter. We have proven with the beef industry that the use of land for meat ranching comes at a price to our ranch lands, and our environment in general.</p> <p>Please allow the slaughter of horses to be outlawed in our country. Sincerely, olof Jacobson, Denver, Colorado</p>
<p>John Mayer For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senate Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing this to offer my whole-hearted support for SB23-038 (Prohibit Equine Slaughter for Human Consumption). This is an issue particularly close to my heart, my family's heart and those of many in my community. I can site a number of reasons why we should protect our horses, whether domestic or wild animals from slaughter. First, as an animal lover I abhor the suffering of any living creature, and the thought of these beautiful animals being shipped long distances under horrible conditions only to be</p>

	<p>killed breaks my heart. Secondly, from a cultural perspective horses are a unique American icon and a symbol of the beautiful western United States. They have served and continue to serve an important role in our economic lives whether as work animals or for purely recreation as riding horses...surely they deserve a better fate! Finally, I would mention that horse-slaughter is opposed by something like 80% of Americans. There is clearly something special about these animals that touches the majority of people in this country. I respectfully ask for your support, you can save these beautiful animals and with them an important symbol of our beautiful west.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>John P. Mayer, Ph.D.</p> <p>University of Colorado,</p> <p>Boulder, CO</p>
<p>Renee Faulkner For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony regarding SB23-038. I support the ban on all slaughter either for human consumption or other products.</p> <p>Horses haven't been slaughtered in the US since 2007. The USDA's own investigations into equine slaughter documented the horrific process and concluded slaughter can not be done humanely. But this barbaric industry continues as thousands of equines are being trucked across our borders to slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada. This is nothing but a transfer of responsibility as our government turns a blind eye to the situation.</p> <p>I am offended by the number of BLM mustangs now turning up in kill pens across this country because of failed agency programs and policies. This is an exploitation of these horses at the expense of stakeholders and taxpayers.</p>
<p>Margaret Jessel For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, I adamantly oppose the slaughter of Colorado's wild and domestic horses for human consumption, and support SB23-038. I grew up in Colorado, and trained and showed horses for most of my life. In the past year I have followed the BLM helicopter roundups, traps, holding and kill pens. I have educated myself on efforts to save them by supporting sanctuaries. I attended and testified in a BLM advisory meeting focused on keeping equine numbers down, in the service of the livestock industry. 80% of US citizens oppose slaughter and consumption of horses. However, thousands of horses are sent to the slaughter pipeline to be shipped to Canada, Mexico, and other countries. The shipping process is horrifying, horses and donkeys packed into trucks trampling one another, with no water, feed, or rest on their way to an inhumane death, if they survive the journey. Watching video of the BLM's treatment of our wild equines is animal cruelty under Colorado law. I was a prosecutor and children's</p>

	<p>attorney for many years and saw the most base human behaviors. I urge you to watch the videos that have been posted on sanctuary websites. It's awful. Foals are lassoed, flipped and dragged; mares lose babies as they run for miles in response to the helicopter roundups; they suffer broken bones, broken necks, bleeding out from botched castration; separation from their bands and families; lacerations, ulcers, and die of disease they would not have contracted were it not for the holding pens and failure by BLM employees and contractors to vaccinate and properly oversee their health. If a private citizen treated their horses this way, they would be prosecuted. Removal of these horses and donkeys from their natural habitat is a result of pressure from the livestock industry, which somehow maintains that cattle and sheep are more entitled to our public lands than horses and burros. We the people own these lands! Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and can be managed without capture and slaughter. Fertility control is working. The Adoption Incentive Program is a failure, paying \$1000 to adopters (many families make thousands of dollars this way) who then turn around and sell them to slaughter auctions. The sanctuaries cannot keep up with the demand. Please, please end this heartbreaking cycle of animal abuse and violence and vote in favor of SB23-038.</p>
<p>Kathy Hollister For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for SB23-038 to establish protection of Colorado equines from slaughter.</p> <p>Each year, thousands of American horses — including from Colorado, are exported to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption in foreign markets.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.</p> <p>America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals. Horses in the United States are not raised as meat animals. As a result, through their lives equines are fed and treated with antibiotics, bute, banamine, steroids and receive as many as 10 yearly vaccines for equine diseases along with many more pharmaceuticals. These chemicals and pharmaceuticals are totally undocumented and thus one has no idea what carcinogens these equines have been exposed to prior to slaughter.</p> <p>Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and horse slaughter is not a solution for their management. There are better options, such as fertility control, for keeping these animals in balance with their environment.</p>

	<p>Captured wild horses and burros are at a higher risk of ending up in Colorado’s slaughter pipeline thanks to the federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild, unhandled animal. Abuse in this program is widespread, with individuals collecting the incentive payments and then sending their animals to slaughter auctions.</p> <p>SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter.</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado’s horses, both domestic and wild.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kathy Hollister</p> <p>Longmont, Colorado</p>
<p>Polly Robson For themselves</p>	<p>I am a Colorado native and a horse owner and I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from slaughter. The horse slaughter pipeline is terribly cruel, and no animal should be forced to face that long cruel journey without food, water, typically crammed into a trailer with other scared dying horses to another country to be killed inhumanely. Coloradoans are proud of their western heritage, please follow the wishes of your constituents and support this bill. Just ask your neighbors, children and friends if they would want these magnificent animals to be tortured in this manner. Please help. Thank you!</p>
<p>Susan Repp For themselves</p>	<p>SURELY IT IS TIME! I fully support SB23-038 which will protect Colorado equines from slaughter. It is time to end the exportation of our American icon to Canada and Mexico for human consumption. We know that the roundup, transportation and methods of slaughter are inhumane and do not represent our culture in any way shape or form. This is not the solution nor has it ever been for controlling the number of horses on free lands owned by the tax paying public. It is outrageous, this is their land and we need to stop driving everything into the ground because we perceive it as a nuisance. We need our environment and the animals that inhabit it. The ridiculous federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild animal has been open to such wide abuse it needs to end. Making money from these animals at the tax payers expense is disturbing and also needs to end.</p> <p>80% if Americans oppose horse slaughter...listen to the public!</p>

	<p>I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado’s horses, both domestic and wild.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Suzanne Eccher For themselves</p>	<p>Horses are not for slaughter. They are an essential tool for agriculture and farming purposes and therapy for special needs and emotional support. There are plenty of other control measures such as fertility intervention to help reduce the population of wild horses. These animals should not be subject for human consumption. Horses are not like cows they are intelligent and know how to care for more than just getting their food every day. There is much more for them to be used for. They are not comparable to any other farm animal. They are trainable and have never been useless, in fact they are the foundation of settlement in the US and other countries. There are many more uses for horses in the world of therapy in emotional support and for therapy for the increasing population of special needs children and adults. With the rise of special-needs in the USA there are plenty of opportunities across the US to use horses for good rather than slaughter for human consumption. Before you vote do your research on how horses are used for emotional support and support for special needs children across the country. Also consider how we can use more of these beautiful animals with such purpose to help heal others and assist with farm life. I’m sure you know someone who has a child with ADHD, Autism and other severe mental disabilities. Horses inherently know what these children and adults need to communicate and help improve their communication skills. Prisoners train them in southern Colorado before working on a ranch another purposeful cause for them. We have the opportunity for horses to be used for much more. They are here to help humans become better humans, not for humans to consume them, this is a horrifying way to treat a horse, again they are highly intelligent and extremely trainable. If this were not passed imagine the continued cruelty that would be presented to other animals such as dogs and cats. It’s just inhumane. Please consider passing this bill to prohibit any availability for horses to be slaughtered for human consumption.</p>
<p>Julie Marshall For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing as a mom within Colorado’s disability community — a voice that is rarely heard in government matters.</p> <p>My daughter, Sarah, was born with a rare genetic disorder, and her physical therapist never thought she was going to ever walk all that well based on her low muscle tone, lack of balance and constant falling.</p>

	<p>Sarah refused to sit on a vinyl bolster in the clinic because of an inability to comprehend what was being asked of her, but when we put her on a brown horse named Beau at age 3, she took right to it smiling.</p> <p>Movement and language are connected, and after the first session on Beau, Sarah was chatty the whole ride home. And this is a girl who was nonverbal. It was incredible and I am forever grateful to Beau and other therapy horses for inspiring my girl to try and speak and learn to walk and run.</p> <p>Today she asks Beau to “walk on” and to trot, and because of weekly hippotherapy (riding a horse guided by a skilled therapist), she has built the core stability and inner thigh strength she needs to run, jump and hike precisely because she was highly motivated by a connection and joy from horses that someone had donated. Horses found at hippotherapy centers are former police horses, companion horses, ranch and farm horses young and old. They are given respect and live with dignity, while continuing to help people and are rewarded with grooming, treats and much love.</p> <p>There is up to a three-year waitlist for anyone who wants to participate in hippotherapy for physical, mental or cognitive challenges. It’s crazy to think that Colorado sends its retired farm and ranch horses to slaughter when there is such a need for them to live and help our children thrive.</p> <p>Mental health experts say many horses found at kill auctions could easily be therapy horses.</p> <p>Colorado needs to do much more to help all people suffering mental health crises, and horses that would be thrown away can instead become part of a greater network for healing for so many kids, teens and adults. I’ve seen it work.</p> <p>Thinking of Beau, Smokey, and Robin, and all of the many incredible retired and/or donated horses Sarah has depended on to walk and run on the playground and hike in the mountains with her family, I cannot imagine that anyone could ever condone sending horses like these off to a fate as horrific as Canadian slaughterhouses where they will linger for months without a kind touch or basic care they deserve by workers who view them as living ghosts for meat.</p>
<p>Sascha de Gregori For themselves</p>	<p>I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from slaughter.</p> <p>Each year, thousands of American horses — including from Colorado, are exported to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption in foreign markets.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill</p>

	<p>pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.</p> <p>America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals.</p> <p>Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and horse slaughter is not a solution for their management. There are better options, such as fertility control, for keeping these animals in balance with their environment.</p> <p>Captured wild horses and burros are at a higher risk of ending up in Colorado’s slaughter pipeline thanks to the federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild, unhandled animal. Abuse in this program is widespread, with individuals collecting the incentive payments and then sending their animals to slaughter auctions.</p> <p>SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter.</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado’s horses, both domestic and wild.</p>
<p>Jennifer Southcott For themselves</p>	<p>I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from slaughter.</p> <p>Each year, thousands of American horses — including from Colorado, are exported to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption in foreign markets.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.</p> <p>America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals.</p> <p>Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and horse slaughter is not a solution for their management. There are better options, such as fertility control, keeping these animals in balance with their environment.</p> <p>Captured wild horses and burros are at a higher risk of ending up in Colorado’s slaughter pipeline thanks to the federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild, unhandled animal. Abuse in this program is widespread, with individuals collecting the incentive payments and then sending their animals to slaughter auctions.</p> <p>SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter. This percentage of Americans who oppose horse slaughter has remained constant for over a decade.</p>

	<p>I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado's horses, both domestic and wild.</p> <p>Thanks for taking action for Colorado's horses.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jennifer Southcott</p>
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Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

02/16/2023 01:30 PM

SB23-038 Prohibit Equine Slaughter For Human Consumption

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Kate Mondragon For themselves	As a stakeholder and tax payer I wish to comment on SB23-038. I do not approve of slaughter for human consumption or any other reason. The slaughter trade has not advanced past the dark ages, it breeds criminality and deportation. It is inhumane and cruel, slaughter houses were banned in the US for those reasons so how is it that we add another layer of credulity and suffering by asking these horses to jump on a transport and travel in all conditions thousands of miles exhausted without food water or rest only to be hacked to death in a foreign country? Why does the department of Ag continue to show favor to this industry, no guard rail credibility or accountability, as they turn a blind eye to this horrid practice. Please pass SB 23-038 to create awareness and provide disclosure to the American public.
Gandhi Viswanathan For themselves	I see serious problems in the whole process. I feel disturbed by the conditions of the BLM mustangs, from the time they are rounded up to when they reach their end in the killing pen. In between, the horses are exploited by opportunists every step, all at the expense of the hardworking tax payer. Finally, from an ethical point of view the status quo is just plain wrong.
Heather Jennings For themselves	I want as much protection as possible for these horses. There is no need for any sort of horse slaughter, as there are people all over the country with proper homes. The misuse of public land and allowing private interest dictate how public lands are used is unethical in the least. This horse slaughter seems to be part and parcel of this process. Please protect the wild horses for all time.
Carly Haase Against themselves	Absolutely cruel. The treatment of horses. Please ban slaughtering!!! Horses are incredible animals and have saved my life and many others lives!!!
Kara Hardman For themselves	Please vote for this bill to be instituted, it is very important to me and my family that this bill gets out in place. Thank you

<p>Magali Fanchon For themselves</p>	<p>Every year's thousand and thousand of Americans horses (Colorado included) are exported to Mexico and Canada to be slaughtered for human consumption. Horses slaughter is so cruel , horses face huge trauma and suffering, they are exported in inhumane conditions, transports are so long , they don't have any water or any food , they go to a brutal death in a foreign slaughter, most of the time they are always so close to each other and have no room and some die sometimes because they can not breathe , American people doesn't eat horses, horses are companion and partner , they have feelings and emotions like all other beings, mustangs and burros suppose to be protected and manage out of this cruelty way , I urge to vote in favor of sb2303 to protect Colorado horses , domestic and Wilde , save our horses !!</p>
<p>Bette Davies For themselves</p>	<p>Please say YES on SB 23-038. Anti-slaughter of Horses</p> <p>Horses have served this country and are deserving to be treated well. Unfortunately, that is not the case. It reflects back to our society and we can do better. It is morally wrong. It is surveyed that 83% of the people do not want horses slaughtered.</p> <p>It is unwise and not healthy as horses are administered meds and vaccines. Horses are not burgers.</p> <p>You should witness the cruelty of what horses go through as it is not humane. The long necks of horses moves from the bolt and are dismembered and takes several tries.</p> <p>In Colorado we value our horses. We want to enjoy them whether it is sports, therapeutic, transportation, our viewing pleasure and companions.</p> <p>The mismanagement has been in play for decades. There is fertility control using pzp that has been proven. It is a travesty how wild horses are treated. The Adoption Incentive Program should be phased out. It leads to the long suffering to the cruel death.</p> <p>Please Be Compassiate and say YES on this Bill. There are Better Solutions.</p> <p>Betty Davies</p>

	<p>Arvada, Co. 80005</p> <p>Bette7755@gmail.com</p>
<p>Kathryn Thompson</p> <p>For</p> <p>Wild Hearts Haven</p>	<p>Equines are more than livestock; they have formed our country and helped us win wars. They deserve better treatment</p>
<p>Suzanne Levy</p> <p>For</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>Dear Colorado Assembly members:</p> <p>I am writing this to strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 prohibiting equine slaughter for human consumption in the state of Colorado. As a taxpayer and resident of this state for over 30 years, I am extremely concerned and opposed to this practice for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horse slaughter is verifiably inhumane. It is a brutal and terrifying death for the horses and any argument to the contrary is not supported by the facts. 2. The vast majority of Americans are opposed to horse slaughter. Americans do not consume horse meat and do not want it on their dinner menus. 3. Horse slaughter negatively impacts the US economy. Subsidizing it will divert valuable financial resources away from American products and food safety. It makes no sense for the state or federal government to spend millions of taxpayer dollars to oversee new horse slaughter plants. At a time when Congress is focused on fiscal responsibility and the budget of the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service is already stretched thin, the USDA should not extend funding for a new program to slaughter horses. I, for one, most strongly object to my taxpayer dollars being used for this purpose. 4. Horse slaughter plants have been linked to air and water pollution, lowered property values and increased crime rates in the areas where they're located. <p>As a resident of the state of Colorado and taxpayer, I am strongly urging you to pass SB23-038 and prohibit both horse slaughter and the export of horses for slaughter altogether and to provide our horses with decent lives and, when necessary, humane deaths. Horses helped build this country. It's the least we owe them.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Suzanne Levy</p>

<p>Gail Jennings For themselves</p>	<p>I support bill Sb23-038. I do not believe that the slaughter of wild horses should be a source of income in this country. The management of these beautiful creatures by the BLM borders on criminal and the state of Colorado, which has always been a leader in protecting our wild resources, should prevent the culling of animals in this state.</p>
<p>Erin Peterson For Zuma's Rescue Ranch</p>	<p>The horses at Zuma's have been rescued from horrific situations, including public auctions where these beautiful, sentient beings would otherwise be sent to slaughter over the border to endure even further abuse, neglect and torture. I have witnessed Zuma's work tirelessly with horses who were otherwise destined for certain death such as slaughter until something amazing happens. What some may see as a "lost cause" transforms into a healthy, happy robust horse through unconditional love, diligent care, and a chance. A chance to perhaps be that one horse who can connect with a person who struggles with mental health issues or to be paired with that special equine friend he/she can bond with for life. Or maybe it's just to be somewhere he can trust where he can relax, enjoy the sunshine on his face and know he is free.</p>
<p>Elisabeth Mankamyer For themselves</p>	<p>I have been involved with horses my entire life. My dad ran a horse packing and trail ride business when I was a kid and I have taken riding lessons and owned and leased horses throughout my life.</p> <p>Throughout these experiences with horses, I've had horses get injured, need surgery and have chronic issues from medical conditions. Those injuries and issues have required medication and intervention, including the use of drugs like Phenylbutazone (bute). Bute is used extensively in horses and is banned in the human food chain. Given that many horses are with different owners, moved between states and without any medical history to track, horses that end up in the slaughter pipeline could have had bute extensively throughout their lives and recently and it is irresponsible for these animals to be slaughtered in any way that could result in them being consumed by humans.</p> <p>Moreover, I use bute as just one example. There are countless drugs used in horses that have not been tested or proven to be safe for human consumption. Horses have long lives and often many jobs. Performance horses receive many injections, medications and supplements for various purposes. There has not been adequate research on the myriad drugs used in horses and their impact on humans if those animals are consumed.</p>

	<p>These animals are not raised as food animals and are not safe for human consumption in any way. This is a stark contrast to animals that are regulated as food animals and those animals have strict regulations for permitted drugs, antibiotics, labeling, etc. This cannot be done with horses.</p> <p>Please support this bill. Thank you.</p>
<p>Renee Faulkner For themselves</p>	<p>Although I support a ban on all equine slaughter, I am particularly disturbed how the BLM has used the slaughter pipe line a a tool to dispose of our wild horse off the public land. Slaughter is a trade that breeds criminality and deprivation and has not advanced since the dark ages. Survey says the majority of the American public strongly disagree with equine slaughter. So in 2007 horse slaughter was banned in the United States because it is cruel and inhumane. So please tell my what world do we live in when we add another dimension of cruelty and suffering by asking them to hop on a transport to travel hundreds of miles to be hacked to death in a foreign country. Will we continue to turn a blind eye and absolve ourselves of all accountability or moral responsibilities. And why does our government endorse and support this trade. All the while marginalizing the the majority of the American people.</p> <p>Please support this bill because it will put criminals on alert, create awareness and inform the public and provide disclosures to the American people.</p>
<p>Teresa Hall For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing today to express my support for SB23-038 banning horse transport for slaughter out of state for both wild and domestic horses.</p> <p>The entire horse transport for slaughter and horse slaughter industries are inherently cruel. The people that make their living off of the suffering of horses livelihoods should not be protected.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is the absolute opposite of humane euthenasia. Horses are companion animals in the United States, and should be treasured as such</p>

	<p>throughout their lifetimes. These animals deserve our empathy, compassion, and respect as much as our beloved dogs and cats.</p> <p>It is absolutely sickening that our horses, included old, weak, and injured and already suffering are then subject to the brutal conditions of multiple over crowded transport between live</p> <p>stock auction houses (sometimes multiple), kill pens, foreign feed lots, and the final torture - inhumane death.</p> <p>There is absolutely no way to humanely kill a horse for slaughter. The captive bolt to the head used in cattle does not work for the long-necked</p> <p>flight response horse. Horses are very aware - hyper aware of their surroundings, and have an incredible sense of smell. They know what is happening</p> <p>and they are terrified. Some horses even wake up while they are being dismembered...this is a searchable fact.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is the polar opposite of humane euthanasia (say that twice).</p> <p>The horse slaughter industry is nothing but blatant greed driven animal cruelty and must be stopped!</p> <p>I personally challenge each and every legislator in this room, to search online horse slaughter photos and videos before you</p>
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	<p>cast your vote. If you do not, then you really do not know what you are voting on.</p> <p>Please remember that well over 80% of your voting constituents are for this bill, SB23-038.</p>
<p>Lynda Larsen For National Mustang Association, Inc., Colorado</p>	<p>There are many reasons that SB23-038 should be passed, which would prohibit the purchase of a horse, donkey or mule in Colorado if the buyer knows, or reasonably should know, the intent of the transaction is to send the animal for slaughter and processing into human food.</p> <p>Horse slaughter is NOT euthanasia. A society is only as civilized as it treats all sentient beings humanely. Science has now established, through brain research, that horses experience a range of emotions very similar to humans. Horse slaughter is inhumane, by any definition.</p> <p>Horses sold to kill buyers suffer terribly, crammed into close quarters in trailers where some are trampled, often lethally. Many are horribly injured with no care or treatment. They frequently go without food or water and arrive half starved at slaughter houses in where they rarely suffer painless deaths, and are often subjected to slaughter while still conscious. It was abuses like these that persuaded Congress to outlaw horse slaughter in the U.S. in 2007. Now, greed has found an end run to continue this despicable process by shipping horses across the border to Mexico and Canada, and Congress must act again.</p> <p>The slaughter of equines for meat is not only inhumane, eating horsemeat poses serious health risks. Since U.S. horses are not intentionally raised for food, many are given a wide variety of drugs that make their meat unfit for human consumption.</p> <p>According to HSUS, the vast majority of horses who become victims of the horse slaughter industry could be sold, donated or otherwise rehomed. But once a horse goes to auction, "kill buyers" outbid legitimate horse owners and rescues, robbing horses of ever having a second chance at life.</p>

	<p>Statistics show that 83% of the American public opposes horse slaughter and support this proposed ban. Most Americans see equines as companion animals, known and valued for their ability to connect with humans and become partners in performance, recreation and therapy.</p> <p>Horse slaughter exceeds all other inhumane treatment of animals in its extreme, unnecessary cruelty. While news of Kentucky Derby winners such as Ferdinand being sold to slaughter spark outrage, statistics say that 36,885 horses were shipped to slaughter in Canada and Mexico last year alone.</p> <p>For these reasons and many more, this bill should be law.</p>
<p>Jonathan Van Luik For themselves</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I have worked for the federal government and a couple of state governments, so I sincerely appreciate the hard work you're doing.</p> <p>Horses helped humans build our civilization. They run for us, jump for us, carry us and our children, and allow us to ranch cattle. They are smart, curious, strong, and stoic. They are always looking for treats, and they will conveniently forget who you are if you're not offering them. Last but not least, they are a royal pain when the wind is howling, always giving you the eye, even though you've brushed them the same way thousands of times before.</p> <p>Our society calls that character, and we respect those with character, so horses deserve our protection. They do not deserve the fear of a kill pen or the abuse thereafter. Despite all they do for us, we still send them to slaughter by way of multi day transport with no food or water, in temperatures more than 100 and less than freezing. Equine athletes are often drugged, rendering their remains unfit for human consumption.</p> <p>We have a unique opportunity to do right by them. To allow rescues to do their job and prevent the slaughter pipeline from wasting funds that could help these same horses. Horses need this bill. Please vote yes.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Jonathan Van Luik</p>
<p>Carol Slade</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Ms Lewis,</p> <p>Thank you for bringing this inhumane treatment of America's equines to the spotlight. No animal should be treated in such a callous manner. I wholeheartedly support this bill.</p> <p>Carol Slade</p>
<p>Marie Guldbek</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Horses should not be sent to slaughter. It is cruel and the suffering is horrific. If population control is needed, then stallions should be gelded and set free. Our horses are the spirit and beauty of our land. We need to protect them.</p>
<p>Kirk Guldbek</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Our horses are beautiful and majestic and deserve what is best. It's time we do the right thing and not slaughter them. Hold the stallions if there is a population problem and then return them to freedom.</p>
<p>Linnea Guldbek</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Horses should NOT be round up and sent to slaughter. This is cruel and should not be tolerated. Please do what is right for these beautiful horses.</p>
<p>Geri Rutz</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>As an avid horsewoman for over 20 years in Colorado, I feel like it is absolutely essential that this bill be passed, and that Equine slaughter in Colorado be deemed illegal and immoral. Both domestic and wild horses need to be protected from this inhumane "business" both in Colorado and nationwide.</p>
<p>Heather Hintz</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee members,</p> <p>I am testifying in favor of SB23-038, a bill to protect equines in Colorado from being sold for slaughter and human consumption. This is a very important bill designed to protect all Colorado equines from being sold for human consumption/slaughter.</p>

	<p>I am hopeful this bill will reduce the deaths to our precious wild horses and burros as well as domestic equines. And hold BLM accountable for every single horse and burro they sell to the public.</p> <p>Perhaps this will stop kill buyers from taking our horses to Mexico for slaughter. One notable kill buyer, Tom Davis, bought over 1,700 wild horses from BLM promising to keep them safe and find good homes for them. He admits he sent 99% of them to Mexico for slaughter, even though he agreed to the terms of the sales. He admitted his guilt and He was never prosecuted. This cannot happen again. Ever. Thank you for your time and consideration.. Heather Hintz</p>
<p>Joseph Cummings For themselves</p>	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for letting me express my opinion in this forum. I am currently a Mounted Police Sergeant for a metro area agency and 38-year veteran of law enforcement. I am also a nationally accredited mounted police instructor having traveled to Canada, France, and Ukraine. I am supporting this bill that would prohibit the slaughter and transport of equines for human consumption. As you know we currently have a national ban on this practice in place however, there is nothing prohibiting the transport of horses across the border to Mexico for human consumption. I have been in the horse world for many years and have seen first-hand how these animals are treated and transported from this country. From a sale barn to a private purchase, these horses are typically loaded on a cramped trailer and transported many miles without food or water. There is no consideration given to their health and welfare and they often fall or become injured during transport. They are then loaded into and held in cramped and unsanitary conditions until they are ready to be killed. Many of these horses are simply discarded by owners who thought it was fun to own a horse and become disinterested or for a horse that cannot fulfil its use to the owner. Not to say the horses cannot still be wonderful companions. Horses who cannot be ridden are used in therapy programs, as companion animals, and even to help treat PTSD in military and first responders. In short, there are valuable and do not deserve to be discarded to the kill pens in some other country. By allowing such practice, I feel it is like turning a blind eye to the situation. Once they are on the trucks it's out of sight, out of mind. These animals deserve better than that. We have a national ban on slaughter for a reason. Please close the back door and do not allow them to be taken away just to face slaughter in some place that has little or no regulation or oversight when it comes to the ethical treatment of these magnificent animals. I urge you to pass this bill into law and protect our horses.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>

	Joe Cummings
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Dear Senate Committee Members,

I am writing this to offer my whole-hearted support for SB23-038 (Prohibit Equine Slaughter for Human Consumption). This is an issue particularly close to my heart, my family's heart and those of many in my community. I can site a number of reasons why we should protect our horses, whether domestic or wild animals from slaughter. First, as an animal lover I abhor the suffering of any living creature, and the thought of these beautiful animals being shipped long distances under horrible conditions only to be killed breaks my heart. Secondly, from a cultural perspective horses are a unique American icon and a symbol of the beautiful western United States. They have served and continue to serve an important role in our economic lives whether as work animals or for purely recreation as riding horses...surely they deserve a better fate! Finally, I would mention that horse-slaughter is opposed by something like 80% of Americans. There is clearly something special about these animals that touches the majority of people in this country. I respectfully ask for your support, you can save these beautiful animals and with them an important symbol of our beautiful west.

Sincerely,

John P. Mayer, Ph.D.

University of Colorado,

Boulder, CO

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Olof Jacobson Against themselves</p>	<p>For years our country has taken the position that wild horses specifically have a place in our history and traditions. Our public lands have been set aside for public use and for the protection of wild life.</p> <p>I understand that other countries may not view the equine population as a protected or respected animal but they are an important part of our history.</p> <p>Canadians wouldn't accept the butchering of polar bears for food/profit because they value the polar bear. Most Canadians don't eat horse meat except for the French dominated regions. Consequently, most are sent to Japan for slaughter. When ready for shipping, local exporters load horses into large trailers where they are taken to the Calgary airport. The horses are then loaded two, three, even four to a crate where critics have claimed they can remain for up to 26 hours until they land in Japan The reason this information is important is because many of the wild horses sold at auction end up going to Canada or Mexico and then from there I turned into profit.</p> <p>We have the means and knowledge to allow wild horses to stay and public lands.</p> <p>Additionally, there really is no need for ranching of horses for sale for slaughter. We have proven with the beef industry that the use of land for meat ranching comes at a price to our ranch lands, and our environment in general.</p> <p>Please allow the slaughter of horses to be outlawed in our country. Sincerely, olof Jacobson, Denver, Colorado</p>



Re:Shannon Geis to: LCS Committees 02/02/2023 11:17 AM

I'm not good at the computer but do support the bill

On Thu, Feb 2, 2023, 7:56 AM LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov> wrote:

Hi Shannon -

You can submit the testimony here: leg.colorado.gov/testimony

By selecting "Submit Written Testimony" and then "By Committee and Hearing Item" then "Senate Agriculture...", today's date, and then SB 22-038. From there you can fill out the submittal form and upload your testimony.

Alternately, you can email your testimony to this address and I will share it with the committee.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Burger
Legislative Council Staff

From: "Shannon Geis" <geisshannon233@gmail.com>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov
Date: 02/02/2023 04:04 AM
Subject:

I wish to submit written testimony to vote for the bill that protects wild horses slaughter for food or any other abuse to these beautiful animals. Thank you and sincerely Shannon Geis

The Colorado General Assembly has moved to a new email domain. Please replace @state.co.us with @coleg.gov in your address book.



Support of SB23-038 bill Sorina Simion-Rodgers to: committees.lcs.ga 02/01/2023 01:12 PM

- I support SB23-038 to protect Colorado equines from slaughter.
- Each year, thousands of American horses — including from Colorado, are exported to Canada and Mexico to be slaughtered for human consumption in foreign markets.
- Horse slaughter is inherently cruel, and the horses face trauma and suffering at every step of the process — from inhumane conditions at kill pens and long transports across the border without food, water, or rest, to a brutal death in foreign slaughter plants.
- America is not a horse-eating nation. Horses in our country are considered companions and partners in work and sport, not food animals.
- Wild horses and burros are protected under federal law and horse slaughter is not a solution for their management. There are better options, such as fertility control, for keeping these animals in balance with their environment.
- Captured wild horses and burros are at a higher risk of ending up in Colorado's slaughter pipeline thanks to the federal Adoption Incentive Program that pays adopters \$1,000 to adopt a wild, unhandled animal. Abuse in this program is widespread, with individuals collecting the incentive payments and then sending their animals to slaughter auctions.
- SB23-038 is consistent with the wishes of the 80% of Americans who oppose horse slaughter.
- I urge you to vote in favor of SB23-038 to protect Colorado's horses, both domestic and wild.

Respectfully,

Sorina Simion-Rodgers

"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated"

Mahatma Gandhi

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win"

Mahatma Gandhi



January 31, 2023

Re: Support for SB23-038, Prohibit Equine Slaughter For Human Consumption.

Good afternoon, my name is Tessa Archibald. I am a Colorado resident and I manage The Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), which is a coalition of hundreds of equine rescues and sanctuaries across the county dedicated to the improvement of equine protection and the end of horse slaughter. Here in Colorado, we have 20 equine rescues that are members of the Homes for Horses Coalition and I am grateful to be here and speak on their behalf. We absolutely support SB23-038, to Prohibit Equine Slaughter For Human Consumption.

Equine slaughter has no place here in Colorado, and that includes the sale, export, and transport of equines for this purpose. Our coalition sees firsthand the cruelty and egregious equine welfare violations associated with the slaughter pipeline in the United States. Our members run organizations dedicated to saving equines and participate in the interception of thousands of at-risk horses in this pipeline each year. In addition, they have the capacity to absorb the population of horses that may have been destined for slaughter. These horses are not broken. They are sound, healthy, and young. They are beloved family pets, ranch horses that have dedicated their lives to helping people, and iconic wild horses, among others. Rescues in our coalition place these equines in loving homes every day.

The slaughter industry is a cruel system that takes advantage of horses and people. Predatory “kill buyers” obtain horses, often from unsuspecting owners, and then sell them to foreign slaughterhouses for profit. Increasingly, kill buyers use social media to take advantage of sympathetic individuals and equine rescues, instigating bidding wars and markups on horses, as well as threatening to send horses to slaughter unless they are “bailed out”. This system can financially cripple equine rescues, reducing the number of horses that can be helped. This fraud can only occur because transporting equines to slaughter is still legal.

Horse slaughter is not humane euthanasia. Horses destined for slaughter are transported for hours on end with no food or water, crammed into stock trailers. Upon arrival at the slaughterhouse, they are brutally killed while they experience intense fear. This is not the same as euthanizing an animal, which is a dignified end of life.

One of the things that I love so much about Colorado is how revered horses are here. They are recognized in so many facets of society for their invaluable contributions to our daily lives, to the culture we have here, and to the foundation of our society here that was built upon horseback. Taking the step to ban horse slaughter here is in line with our values as Coloradans and makes it clear to the rest of the country that we do not support such animal cruelty. With that in mind, I



Homes *for* Horses
COALITION

want to reiterate my support on behalf of the National Homes for Horses Coalition for this bill against horse slaughter.

Sincerely,

Tessa Archibald
Manager, Homes for Horses Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tessa Archibald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



February 15, 2023

Re: Support for SB23-038, Prohibit Equine Slaughter For Human Consumption.

Good afternoon, my name is Tessa Archibald. I am a Colorado resident and I manage The Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), which is a coalition of hundreds of equine rescues and sanctuaries across the county dedicated to the improvement of equine protection and the end of horse slaughter. Here in Colorado, we have 20 equine rescues that are members of the Homes for Horses Coalition and I am grateful to represent our coalition and rescue community. We absolutely support SB23-038, to Prohibit Equine Slaughter For Human Consumption.

Equine slaughter has no place here in Colorado, and that includes the sale, export, and transport of equines for this purpose. Our coalition sees firsthand the cruelty and egregious equine welfare violations associated with the slaughter pipeline in the United States. Our members run organizations dedicated to saving equines and participate in the interception of thousands of at-risk horses in this pipeline each year. In addition, they have the capacity to absorb the population of horses that may have been destined for slaughter. These horses are not broken. They are sound, healthy, and young. They are beloved family pets, ranch horses that have dedicated their lives to helping people, and iconic wild horses, among others. Rescues in our coalition place these equines in loving homes every day.

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Homes for Horses
COALITION

want to reiterate my support on behalf of the National Homes for Horses Coalition for this bill against horse slaughter.

Sincerely,

Tessa Archibald
Manager, Homes for Horses Coalition