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COLORADO STATE LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER BAN ON HORSE SLAUGHTER

On January 12th, State Senator Sonia Jaquez Lewis, together with Representative Lorena García as main House sponsor, introduced SB23-038, a bill to outlaw the slaughter of equines for human consumption. The newly introduced legislation is the latest of a series of state initiatives, that, during the last decade, have been trying to end, on a state level by state, this cruel practice. This action follows the passage of similar legislation in states such as New Jersey.

Horses in the US are not regarded as food producing-animals and the slaughter of horses for human consumption ceased in 2007 following the closure of the last three remaining slaughter plants by state legislation in Illinois and Texas, as well as a federal funding ban that prevents the USDA from carrying out inspections needed for the meat to be sold. Although the new Colorado state legislation will not be able to put a definitive end to the slaughter of American horses abroad, for which a federal ban would need to be enacted, it would prevent the establishment of equine slaughter plants in the state, should the vulnerable yearly USDA funding ban, that put an end in practice to the slaughter of horses within the US, be repealed. More importantly, it would serve to send a powerful message to Congress, where the federal ban has been languishing for almost two decades. Adding the support of more state legislatures, particularly in the West, is of critical importance to gain enough support to move the bill out of Committee. The text of the legislation can be found at <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb23-038>

Colorado legislative bill SB23-038 is scheduled for a hearing next Thursday, February 2nd, before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. It is requested that any citizen of Colorado concerned by the mere existence of horse slaughter, contact their members of congress, as well as the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, by asking them to support SB23-038 so that it can be reported from committee to the Senate floor for a fair vote.



The members and contact information of committee members is as follows:

-Sen. Dylan Roberts, Chair

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-Sen. Nick Hinricksen, Vice Chair

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-Sen. Janice Marchmann

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-Sen. Brian Pelton

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-Sen. Rod Pelton

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-Sen. Kevin Priola

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-Sen. Cleave Simpson

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From the Equine Welfare Alliance, we commend Senator Sonia Lewis and Lorena García for their bold move and we kindly ask our followers to reach out to their colleagues in the Agriculture Committee to ensure passage of this bill. We will continue informing on any developments on this regard.