



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
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GOOD ANIMAL NEWS FROM CONGRESS

King Amendment Defeated – Efforts to Halt Horse Slaughter Advance

King Amendment

The federal Farm Bill which contained a harmful amendment by Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) was soundly defeated. Rep. King's amendment was intended to repeal existing state laws and preclude future state efforts to mandate humane standards of care for animals raised by out-of-state producers.

Rep. King's amendment was aimed at California's recent law requiring all eggs imported into the state to come from hens provided the same protections that hens are required to have in California – namely enough living space to move around, lie down, stand-up and extend their limbs. This is in sharp contrast to living conditions for most egg producing hens which are crammed into cages with 3 or 4 other hens and only provided enough living space as an 8-1/2"x11" sheet of paper per hen. Ironically, the United Egg Producers, which represents the ownership of 95% of the nation's egg-laying hens, was not even in support of the King amendment.

As more and more states pass ballot initiatives and enact laws mandating the humane treatment of animals that are sold (or byproducts) in their state, Rep. King felt it necessary to seek to protect cruel production practices and to strip the right of states to protect animals from exploitation and abuse. King's amendment would have forced California and several other states to lower their requirements for the health and welfare of animals.

Rep. King is the same Congressman that defended the brutal activity of dogfighting and opposed a federal law to prohibit attendance at dogfights arguing that "criminalizing the attendance at dogfights is wrong since it is not a federal crime to induce somebody to watch people fight." While the King amendment, thankfully, went down in defeat, it will surely surface again. We will keep you informed of any similar efforts in the future.



Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa)
Defender of battery cages and dog fighting

Horse Slaughter

Senators Mary Landrieu (D-Louisiana) and Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) passed a ban on domestic horse slaughter through the Senate Appropriations Committee as part of the FY 2014 Agriculture Appropriations bill. This ban would prohibit the U. S. Department of Agriculture from using funds to inspect horsemeat intended for human consumption, effectively banning domestic horse slaughter in the U. S.

Senator Landrieu stated afterwards, “Today’s bipartisan vote to pass a ban on domestic horse slaughter shows once again that this is not a Democratic or a Republican issue – it is an issue that 80 percent of the American people agree on. Brutal slaughter is never the answer, and I will continue to push for this ban to be signed into law.”

This follows action taken by the House Appropriations Committee which also voted to deny funding for horse slaughter. President Obama has also recommended that the FY 2014 Appropriations bill not contain funds for horse slaughter.

The actions by the House, Senate, and the Administration are efforts to reverse the 2012 budget which reinstated funding to allow for horse slaughter. This effort to bring back horse slaughter was unfortunately led by Missouri’s Senator Roy Blunt. As a result, there are currently efforts underway to establish horse slaughter plants in the U. S. including one here in Gallatin, Missouri. It is hoped that if the FY 2014 Appropriations bill passes with the current language that it will once again deter horse slaughter in this country at least for the duration of the fiscal bill.

In an effort to permanently ban horse slaughter, Senators Landrieu and Graham also introduced Senate Bill 541, the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act. This legislation would not only permanently prohibit horse slaughter operations in the U. S., but it would also end the current export of more than 150,000 American horses shipped to Mexico and Canada for slaughter each year. A similar bill, H.R. 1094, has been introduced in the House by Representatives Patrick Meehan (R-PA) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL).



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