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To: Chairman Oberstar  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Endorsement of H.R. 305

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

We are writing on behalf of Equine Welfare Alliance (EWA) and its over 115 organization members and hundreds of individual members to express our support for the swift passage of the Horse Transportation Safety Act, H.R. 305.

It is shameful that humane transport for horses must be legislated. Even the most casual observer with an untrained eye can see that double decker trailers were not designed to transport horses.

Horses are not able to stand properly because of the low ceilings in the trailers designed to transport livestock, causing injuries from hitting their heads on the ceilings or worse, being trampled after falling. There have been instances where the top levels have collapsed from the weight resulting in injuries and death from horses trying to stand and others being trampled to death.

Two horrific accidents come to mind in recent years. One was in Missouri and the other in EWAs home state, Illinois. In both instances, dozens of horses lost their lives with many others requiring expensive extended veterinary care. The cost of extended care and clean-up must be absorbed by local communities.

Many states have taken action to ban the use of double decker trailers because of the continuing threat to public safety on our highways as well as the safe transport for horses but legislation is needed at the national level to prohibit their use throughout our country.

EWA applauds Congressman Kirk for introducing this important piece of legislation and hopes that your committee will act quickly to pass H.R. 305 so we can ensure its passage into law during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Thank you.

*The Equine Welfare Alliance is a dues free, umbrella organization representing organizations and individuals throughout the United States and eight countries. The organization focuses its efforts on the welfare of all equines and the preservation of wild equids.*