

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

Bo Derek Backs Spratt's Horse Slaughter Prevention Act

WASHINGTON – Movie Star Bo Derek of “10” fame was on Capitol Hill today to voice her support for a bill introduced by U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) to end the slaughter of American horses for human consumption.

“Americans don’t raise horses for food and we don’t eat them,” she stated in support of the National Horse Protection Coalition, a group that includes leaders from the horse industry and animal protection community. The Coalition supports passage of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 857), which Spratt introduced along with U.S. Rep. John Sweeney (R-NY).

Derek told legislators and government workers, “Tens of thousands of horses are cruelly slaughtered in this country every year, just so someone in Europe can have a fancy dinner. It’s just plain wrong. Americans don’t raise horses for food, and we don’t eat them. I want to help end this horrid practice.” Derek, an able horsewoman who keeps five Iberians at her home in California, traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet and discuss the issue with Spratt and other Members of Congress.

More than 49,000 horses were slaughtered in the U.S. last year at two foreign owned slaughterhouses and those horses became dinner in Europe and Asia – a 16% increase on the previous year’s figure. Tens of thousands more of America’s horses were exported and slaughtered abroad.

Derek is not alone in wanting to end horse slaughter. In addition to public opinion polls indicating that the American public strongly opposes horse slaughter (recent polls from Kentucky, Texas and Utah respectively show that 82%, 72% and 69% of those questioned oppose the practice), Derek is working with world famous Thoroughbred trainer, Nick Zito, a two-time Kentucky Derby winner (Strike the Gold in 1991 and Go for Gin in 1994). Zito, who serves as the National Horse Protection Coalition’s National Spokesman, says of Derek’s support, “We are thrilled that Bo has joined us and countless other horse lovers in calling for an end to the slaughter of America’s horses for human consumption in Asia and Europe.”

The National Horse Protection Coalition was established in 2003 to ensure swift passage of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. The bill has more than 180

cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is supported by the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, Churchill Downs Incorporated, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, the Doris Day Animal League, The Humane Society of the United States, and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation.

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