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May 25, 2012

Secretary Tom Vilsack
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I'm writing to ask for your assistance with an issue of grave concern to many of my constituents in New Mexico. Last month, I and other New Mexicans learned of a proposal by Valley Meat Company to open a horse slaughter plant in Roswell, N.M. Like many other New Mexicans, I am concerned about a horse slaughterhouse being located in our state.

I am a cosponsor of the American Horse Slaughter Prevent Act, H.R. 2966, which would prohibit slaughterhouses like this one in the United States. Slaughterhouses are not a humane solution to the problem of homeless or abandoned horses, and polls have consistently shown that Americans are overwhelmingly opposed to the slaughter of horses.

In light of these serious issues, I urge your careful and complete consideration of the application and would appreciate being updated on the status of the application process. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of American farmers and rural communities.

Sincerely yours,

MARTIN HEINRICH
Member of Congress