

TOM UDALL  
NEW MEXICO

110 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-6621  
(202) 228-3261 FAX  
<http://tomudall.senate.gov>

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

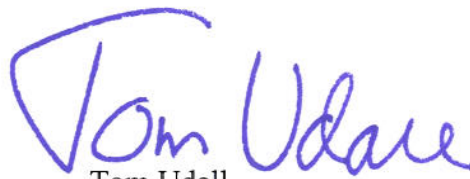
Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I write to express my concerns about the possible opening of a horse slaughter plant in New Mexico, and to stress the continued opposition of many of my constituents to the proposed plant and to the slaughter of horses for human consumption. It is also notable that this proposed plant is opposed by the New Mexico Governor and the New Mexico Attorney General who has grave concerns over the health risks of the products of this plant.

I share many of my constituents concerns about the difficulty of humanely slaughtering a horse, and the potential health risks that horsemeat poses because these animals are not raised for human consumption. There is no domestic demand for horsemeat, and it is questionable whether slaughterhouses are a humane solution to the problem of abandoned or neglected horses. As you know, USDA is currently suffering funding difficulties under budget sequestration to manage its existing responsibilities for inspecting slaughterhouses. Adding an additional inspection burden at this time could make a bad situation worse for existing producers who supply the domestic consumer market.

As you consider the application to open the horse slaughter plant in Roswell, New Mexico, I would encourage your careful and thorough review of the situation. I would further request an update on the status of the application, the capacity of the plant to provide humane treatment of the horses, the ability to conduct full screening for the range of drugs that may be given to horses, and the capacity of USDA to fund the necessary inspections.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator

STATE OFFICES:

ALBUQUERQUE:  
219 CENTRAL AVENUE NW, SUITE 210  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102  
505-346-6791

CARLSBAD:  
102 W HAGERMAN, SUITE A  
CARLSBAD, NM 88220  
575-234-0366

LAS CRUCES:  
201 N. CHURCH STREET, SUITE 201B  
LAS CRUCES, NM 88001  
575-526-5475

SANTA FE:  
120 SOUTH FEDERAL PLACE,  
SUITE 302  
SANTA FE, NM 87501  
505-988-6511