

Resolution on the Slaughter of Horses

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3 **WHEREAS** pending U.S. House of Representatives Bill 503 and pending U.S. Senate
4 Bill 727 would criminalize horse slaughter and would provide for a three year prison
5 term and a fine for anyone selling or providing transport for horses sold for humane
6 slaughter for commercial use;

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8 **WHEREAS** it has been documented that a ban on such slaughter leads to an increase in
9 the abandonment and neglect of unwanted horses;

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11 **WHEREAS** being able to market otherwise unmarketable surplus horses for humane
12 commercial slaughter benefits the farm and ranch economy as well as the tribal
13 economy;

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15 **WHEREAS** approximately 20,000 feral horses reside on Northwest Indian Reservations
16 and these numbers are far in excess of the carrying capacity of the land, which
17 negatively impacts other resources including forage and cover for wildlife, native
18 cultural food and medicinal plants and degrades water and fishery resources;

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20 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
21 Committee, strongly urge our Washington State Congressional delegation to oppose
22 passage of any law that criminalizes the humane commercial slaughter of horses when
23 there are compelling contravening reasons for such slaughter.
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26 Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the Washington State Democratic
27 Central Committee for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date
28 Submitted 1/5/2010)

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30 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
31 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.

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33 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.