



December 7, 2023

Honourable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Government of Canada

Re: Concerns with Bill C-355 and Air Transport of Horses for Slaughter

Dear Minister MacAulay,

I am writing to you today to express concern with Bill C-355 and its potential negative impacts.

At Alberta Beef Producers, we have long been advocates of science-based decision. Decision making based upon public opinion can be ill-informed and lack nuance, resulting in several unintended consequences.

Horses are regularly transported by air for several purposes and in compliance with the *Health of Animals Act Part XII: Transport of Animals*. The fact that Bill C-355 specifically targets animals destined for slaughter means that mode of transport isn't the issue, but rather that the intended end use for these horses (slaughter) is what this proposed legislation is trying to prevent. The horse meat industry is legitimate, servicing countries around the world that enjoy horse meat.

Canada, and specifically Alberta, have a substantial number of horses that are used for ranching and pleasure. Horses require a reasonable destination at end of life or when owners cannot suitably care for them any longer – horse slaughter incentivizes people to sell these animals, preventing serious and potentially long-term inhumane outcomes. Without appropriate marketing channels, horses that are no longer useful, or no longer wanted, would experience significant negative welfare outcomes, as has been well documented in other jurisdictions enacting horse slaughter bans.

We are concerned that this proposed Bill would have dramatic repercussions on animal welfare in Canada and urge the government to base policy decisions on scientific and economic evidence rather than emotion.



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Canadian farmers are trying their utmost to meet rising global demand for high-quality proteins – closing marketing channels for these producers could make the global food crisis worse for underprivileged nations.

Thank you for your continued support of the beef industry, agriculture, and rural Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brodie Haugan".

Brodie Haugan
Chair, Alberta Beef Producers

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kyle Forbes".

Kyle Forbes
Chair, Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Graham Overguard".

Graham Overguard
President, Western Stock Growers' Association

cc:
Nathan Phinney, Chair of Canadian Cattle Association
Doug Sawyer, Chair of Alberta SPCA