A resolution

memorializing Congress to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

WHEREAS, the processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue and has resulted in the closing of all horse processing facilities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation was introduced to amend the 1970 Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines for processing and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the loss of secondary markets has severely affected the livestock industry by eliminating the salvage value of horses and has significantly reduced the market value of all horses; and

WHEREAS, prohibitions on the processing of horses have resulted in significant increases in abandoned and starving animals and have had significant economic impact on the entire equine industry; and

WHEREAS, the increase in unwanted or unusable horses has overwhelmed private animal welfare agencies and the public's ability to care for surplus domestic horses; and

WHEREAS, the annual number of unwanted or unusable surplus domestic horses is estimated to be 100,000; and

WHEREAS, issues related to the humane handling and slaughter of surplus domestic horses are best addressed by proper regulations and inspection and not by banning or exporting the issue; and

WHEREAS, state agriculture and rural leaders recognize the necessity and benefit of a state's ability to direct the transport and processing of horses; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it urges that the Congress of the United States to oppose federal legislation that interferes with a state's ability to direct the transport or processing of horses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the state of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.