

Fasig-Tipton Company, Inc.



2400 Newtown Pike
P.O. Box 13610
Lexington, KY 40583-3610
859 255 1555
Fax: 859 254 0794
info@fasigtipton.com

March 7, 2003

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Vice Chairman of Fasig-Tipton Company, the oldest Thoroughbred auction company in United States in operation since 1898. We operate in five states and Canada, and have been conducting horse sales in the state of Texas for several years; we have seen steady progress in Texas as a marketplace for Thoroughbreds.

I am writing to you in reference to legislation has been introduced in the Texas House of Representatives in the form of HB 1324, which seeks to alter current law that prohibits the sale, offering for sale or transfer of horsemeat for human consumption. HB 1324 would change the current law to make it illegal only if the consumption takes place in the United States. This change in the law would, in effect, legalize the activities of the two foreign-owned Texas horse slaughter houses that currently slaughter and ship horsemeat to France, Germany and Japan.

Fasig-Tipton is actively involved in horse rescue efforts through our support of Blue Horse Charities, a not-for-profit organization that seeks to assist those providing a humane solution for Thoroughbreds no longer suitable for breeding or racing. We feel that the slaughter of horses is not only abhorrent to those of us in the industry but also to the fans of the sport that our industry is based upon. As such we feel it represents a real threat to the Thoroughbred industry as a whole, and feel that the legalization of this activity in Texas could have a very negative impact on the state's Thoroughbred industry.

I strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** HB 1324 and any legislation that would seek to alter Texas law that prohibits the slaughter and sale of horsemeat for human consumption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William R. Hettinger', written in a cursive style.

William R. Hettinger

William R. Hettinger
Vice Chairman