

February 12, 2004

Via Facsimile: (217) 585-1601

Mr. Frank Bowman, President
Horseman's Council of Illinois
P. O. Box 1605
Springfield, IL 62705

Re: HCI's position statement "Preserving the Slaughter Option – Fact of Furor"

Mr. Bowman:

I have just taken the liberty of carefully reading the Horsemen's Council of Illinois' position statement on slaughter entitled "*Preserving the Slaughter Option – Fact Over Furor.*" First, I would like to address your paper with regard to legislation in Illinois and in U.S Congress. Let me just start by saying that I am NOT a radical animal rights activist. I am an owner and caregiver of three horses, all of which mean a great deal to me, and all of which add unmeasurable enjoyment to my life. This position statement generally classifies anybody against horse slaughter as an extreme animal activist, which I find very offensive and insulting. There are many horse owners like myself who have vocalized their position on this issue, and who don't appreciate being classified as animal extremists. Further, if those who support anti-slaughter legislation do so out of emotional reaction, it is because we love and respect our horses. Horse slaughter in America is not an issue of humans eating horsemeat... it's an issue of foreign countries eating our *American horses - American Horses* that have been raised as pets, for sport, for leisure, and that have come to trust humans.

You further accuse anti-slaughter supporters as using scare tactics to get legislation passed. In **your** position statement it states "*passage of the horse anti-slaughter legislation would set a precedent that the animal groups could capitalize on when they move on to the beef, pork, sheep and poultry industries.*" This is an absolutely ridiculous statement and I am confident that the Representatives and Senators of the State of Illinois, and the Representatives and Senators of our U.S. Congress will not be deceived by **your** scare tactics. The majority of our population eats meat, and the majority of our population will always eat meat.

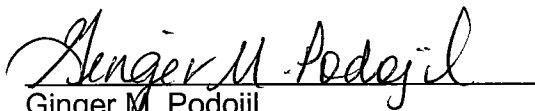
You cite many horse associations that have taken the pro-slaughter position. Rest assured, it's not only animal activist groups that do not agree with the AVMA, AAEP, AHC, and the AQHA. We horse owners do too! Each of the above associations have their own agendas and reasoning for supporting horse slaughter. But, I can guarantee that all of their pro-slaughter positions can be challenged, all of them have flaws, and all of them relate to financial agendas. It is interesting how you neglected to include all of the horse associations that are anti-slaughter.

Mr. Frank Bowman, President
Horseman's Council of Illinois
February 12, 2004
Page 2

Our American horse slaughter system breeds indifference and encourages irresponsible horse ownership. It is irresponsible for any horse owner to put their horses through the horse slaughter system when there is an alternative of humane euthanasia by a veterinarian. Humane euthanasia is not costly and is minimal compared to the cost of general upkeep. Responsibility... is it too much to ask?? Again... **you are using scare tactics** to deceive concerned Illinois horse owners and citizens into believing that horses will be rotting in fields because their owners will not be able to afford humane euthanasia.

The Horseman's Council of Illinois' position statement comes off as a pompous attempt to mislead the Illinois horse population and legislators into believing that only extreme animal activists are taking the anti-slaughter position, that all "true horsemen" know what's good for horses, and are pro-slaughter. Fact is, there are many "true horsemen" and woman that are anti-slaughter, despite your declaration to the contrary. I would like to ask one question - what is the economical benefit to the Horseman's Council of Illinois in taking this pro-slaughter position?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginger M. Podojil". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ginger M. Podojil
20503 County Road 25
Damon, Texas 77430