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March 12, 2012

Via Facsimile ~ (573) 581-1353 and US Mail

Attorney Dan Erdel
100 N. Jefferson Street
Mexico, MO 65265-2765

RE: Solicitation of Investors for Horse Slaughter Facility

Dear Attorney Erdel,

It is my understanding that you are acting as the attorney for Unified Equine as well as soliciting investments to develop a horse slaughter facility here in the state of Missouri. Unfortunately, the solicitation of investors while withholding pertinent information from the prospectus and including false and misleading information in other sections of the prospectus will leave Unified Equine, LLC and you personally susceptible to civil actions and potential criminal penalties for providing false information to investors and withholding pertinent information from these same investors. It is clear to me that you simply have not done your homework prior to embarking on this venture of soliciting investments for this foreign corporation.

Any investor should be aware that once the plant is up and running, there may be no USDA inspectors capable of inspecting meat. My office has contacted Lawrence, Kansas, USDA inspector Dr. Keith Gilmore who, although somewhat reticent to provide information, did indicate that the plant you are trying to design to process 200-400 head of horses a day would take a full-time USDA inspector and no federal funds have been appropriated for that purpose. Investors should also be advised that the appropriations bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama on November 18, 2011, will have to be revisited by Congress on or before September 30, 2012 when it is to expire. Even though the prohibition against USDA inspection of horse meat that may be processed for human

consumption at U.S. plants was removed from this appropriation bill, no new money was appropriated to pay for these inspections. One can only guess what could possibly happen in an election year prior to September 30, 2012.

Further, even though you indicated at the meeting held at my office on February 17, 2012, that you did not expect the legislation to pass, all investors should be made aware that H.R. 2966: The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011, has been assigned out to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and S. 1176: The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011, has also been assigned to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I realize your position is that these bills will not ever come out of committee, yet a prudent investor would want to make their own evaluation as to the appropriations matter and the Slaughter Prevention Acts which are integrally at issue in any investment decision they might make.

Although I am in no way connected with or employed by the HSUS, their involvement also has to be considered. I have been able to obtain a letter from the HSUS to the Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, the Secretary of Agriculture. I have attached a copy of this letter for your review and would ask that all potential investors be provided with a copy of this letter. The HSUS has a history of legally contesting issues involving inhumane treatment of animals in protracted and expensive litigation. If this facility is built it is clear that there may be several years of litigation prior to any clearance for USDA inspections. (See attached Exhibit A)

In the prospectus, which you provided at the meeting at my office, on Feb 17, 2012, it was stated, "The animal handling facilities will be designed by Dr. Temple Grandin, a leader in animal handling systems..." My office contacted Dr. Temple Grandin who indicated she had never been contacted by Unified Equine about building or designing any facility in the state of Missouri. I am attaching a copy of her two e-mails to my office as well as a Springfield News-Leader article on March 4, 2012, where she indicated surprise as being listed as being involved in this project when she had never been contacted. (See attached Exhibits B & C) Yet, Sue Wallis, President of Unified Equine once again falsely stated in her information packet provided to those attending her meeting just yesterday, March 12, 2012, that, "The animal handling facilities will be designed by Grandin Livestock Systems, a leader in the design of animal handling system at meat processing plants."

You have also provided information indicating that this plant will employ, at a minimum, 40-50 people with all employees coming from the local area. On Sunday, March 11, 2012, representatives from Chevedico, Michiel de Beukelaar and Olivier Kemsecke, held a meeting at the Kelley Livestock Auction with potential investors. Mr. de Beukelaar and Mr. Kemsecke were asked by those present who they expected to employ. They were quite upfront and direct in advising that it was a fact of life that 95% of the employees would be Hispanic as they were the only ones they could employ that would do this type of work. To provide written assurances that nearly all of the job would be local is horrific misinformation to supply a struggling, small community looking for jobs for its unemployed in a bad economy and to community conscious investors.

Also, in Unified Equines prospectus it indicated this will require a \$6 million investment. Evidently, Unified Equine President Sue Wallis will be investing no funds in this proposed slaughter house but advised investors her roll would be that of public relations director for the proposed facility. Chevedico, on the other hand, was very vocal and adamant that it will put no money whatsoever in building this facility at the March, 11, 2012 meeting; no bricks, no mortar, no fixed assets. Their position is that, "If you build it, we will come." Chevedico wants a turn-key project. In this investors meeting, Chevedico indicated they are looking for a lease situation. Yet, in the meeting in my office on Friday, February 17, 2012, you indicated Chevedico would be a 50% or larger owner of this facility. Should problems with litigation and lack of USDA funding prevent the slaughter of horses as planned Chevedico will only be out their lease expenses; while the \$6 million from Missouri investors who have been misled and provided substantial misinformation will lose their \$6 million investment.

I am copying the Attorney General's office on this letter as, not unlike Mamtek, we are being totally misled by you and an irresponsible, underfunded corporation from Wyoming into dumping \$6 million of state and local money, to include state and federal tax incentives, into an ill-conceived and fraudulently marketed entity. It is clear that this facility will never be located in the Twin Cities Corridor, but Unified Equine has announced it is already looking at southwest and northern Missouri for a new location and new investors.

I am also copying the governor's office on this letter, as I am quite concerned about the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Agriculture failing their local communities in this matter. I have been repeatedly advised at the state level that there has been no involvement by the state, yet I have been told by local resident Mickey Plummer that Dennis Baird,

John Hagler, Luke Holt and a fourth DNR individual were present at a meeting at Cabool State Bank on February 7, 2012, and a presentation was even made by one of the DNR representatives. I have also been told by Danny Jones, owner of L & R Industries, that engineers with DNR were at his building and making calculations as to where the horses would come in for slaughter and how the facility could be modified to accommodate the slaughter. Everyone I have talked to said that DNR indicated this was a doable project. Yet, when the citizens of this community want to know what involvement their state government has in this, we are unbelievably being provided false information not only leading the horses, but the tax payers of this state to slaughter.

I am requesting that you make this letter and all documentation available to the CEO of Unified Equine, Sue Wallis, and to Michiel de Beukelaar and Olivier Kemsecke with Chevedico. I hesitate to contact them directly since you have advised me that you represent their interest in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia O. MacPherson

COM:le

Enclosures

XC – Governor Jay Nixon
Attorney General Chris Koster
Secretary of State Robin Carnahan
Attorney Danny Lyskowski
Department of Economic Development



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Chief Innovations Officer

Laura Maloney
Chief of Staff

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

**Re: Notice of Domestic and International Legal Issues Concerning the
Resumption of Horse Slaughter in the United States**

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Dear Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), I am writing concerning Congress's decision to reinstitute funding for the inspection of horse slaughter facilities as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. Although funding is now available for inspections for the first time since 2006, such inspections cannot resume without administrative action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The purpose of this letter is to remind USDA of the domestic and international legal obstacles to the resumption of horse slaughter in the United States, and to inform the agency that HSUS will take aggressive legal action to enforce those obligations. In particular, and as outlined below, prior to the resumption of inspections of horse slaughter facilities, the agency must first prepare an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and modify its existing regulatory framework to comply with the European Union's (EU's) new requirements concerning residues in food products, including horsemeat.

I. Background

In 2006, nearly 105,000 horses were slaughtered in the U.S. for human consumption, with the majority of the horsemeat exported to markets like the EU and Japan. Most of the horses were raised for purposes other than food production and were in good condition before being sent to slaughter. The price per pound of horsemeat, however, outweighed the benefit of keeping the animals alive. Horses that ended up in slaughterhouses did not meet a humane and painless death. Instead, they were subject to terror, pain and suffering both in transport and slaughter. This cruelty, committed to service foreign demand for horsemeat, prompted Congress to add a defunding provision to the FY 2006 Agriculture Appropriations Bill that prohibited the use of federal funds to pay for salaries and expenses of personnel to inspect horses being slaughtered for human consumption.

This effectively precluded the USDA from inspecting horse slaughter facilities as required by section 603 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (FAIR).

The three remaining horse slaughter producers in the U.S. petitioned USDA for emergency rulemaking to create a fee-for-service inspection program that would have allowed inspections to continue (underwritten by each company) and, consequently, for horse slaughter facilities to continue operation. Following a significantly truncated notice and comment period, USDA published an interim final rule in the Federal Register. The failure of USDA to comply with the notice and comment requirements under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and the failure of USDA to conduct an environmental review under NEPA prior to its decision to restart inspections, was the subject of *The Humane Society of the United States v. Johanns*, 520 F. Supp. 2d 8 (D.D.C. 2007).

In *Johanns*, the court agreed that USDA was required to assess the environmental effects of horse slaughter operations pursuant to NEPA before it issued the interim rule creating a fee-for-service ante-mortem horse slaughter inspection system.¹ As a result, the court vacated the interim rule and permanently enjoined USDA from implementing a fee-for-service inspection system.² Without resources for federal inspections, and in light of the court's ruling in *Johanns*, all domestic horse slaughter facilities ceased operation by 2007. Since that time, no horses have been slaughtered for commercial production in the United States.

II. NEPA Review and the Issuance of New Rules and Regulations are Necessary Before Inspections Can Begin

In the FY 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, Congress reinstated funding for horse slaughter inspections. However, in order to comply with the court's judgment in *Johanns*, USDA must assess the environmental impacts of horse slaughter operations in accordance with NEPA prior to starting horse inspections.

¹ *Johanns*, 520 F. Supp. 2d at 29.

² *Id.*

In finding that USDA violated NEPA and the APA, the court in *Johanns* held that: (1) USDA's decision to restart inspection of horse slaughter facilities was a major Federal action that was the legally relevant cause of the environmental impact; (2) USDA's decision did not simply maintain the status quo; and (3) USDA's failure to scrutinize the decision's eligibility for categorical exclusion from NEPA analysis was arbitrary and capricious.³ These holdings are directly applicable here.

First, NEPA review would be required for USDA to approve any permit application for inspection of a horse slaughter facility. In order to be eligible for inspection pursuant to the FMIA, a horse slaughter facility must apply for inspection, and review of that application necessarily involves USDA assessing detailed paperwork regarding the premises, standard operating procedures, and management of waste-streams, including sewage and water.⁴ It was undisputed in *Johanns* that horse slaughter operations significantly impacted the environment.⁵ Indeed, individual plaintiffs living in the vicinity of the horse slaughter plants testified about the daily stench from the plants and the fact that they would find horse blood in their bathtubs, sinks and toilets. USDA must analyze the potential for those and all other environmental impacts before approving any permit applications. This analysis of course is precisely the type of "major Federal action" that triggers NEPA review.⁶

Second, Sections 603(a) and 621 of the FMIA respectively, require the inspection of animals to be slaughtered for meat and meat food products in accordance with "rules and regulations" prescribed by the Secretary, and for the Secretary to "promulgate rules and regulations" to ensure the efficient execution of the provisions of the chapter. Given that horse slaughter operations closed down several years ago, a reopening would require USDA to update existing regulations, directives, or other policy documents to "ensure the efficient execution" of the FMIA, especially in light of new export requirements in the EU – the United States' major export market. As in *Johanns*, any action by USDA to restart slaughter inspections through agency rulemaking, policy documents, alteration of existing programs or adoption of new programs would constitute a "major Federal action" requiring NEPA review.

³ *Id.* at 19 - 35.

⁴ 9 C.F.R. § 416.2; *see also* General Information, Applying For a Grant of Inspection, USDA, available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Grant_of_Inspection.pdf ("Prior to the inauguration of inspection, when the owner or designee believes they have met the necessary requirements (e.g. developed a written Sanitation SOP, conducted a hazard analysis and HACCP plan, prepared labels, and facility), to start operations they will notify their contact person. Upon notification to your assigned contact Frontline Supervisor (FLS), the D M or designee will schedule a date and time to conduct an on-site review of the establishment and documents by inspection personnel. If all items meet regulatory requirements, a "Conditional Grant of Inspection" will be issued. During a period not to exceed 90 days, which new product can be produced for distribution in commerce, the establishment shall validate its HACCP plan adequacy in controlling the food safety hazards identified during the hazard analysis, and shall verify that the plan is being effectively implemented in accordance with 9 CFR 417.4. Refer to 9 CFR Parts 304.3, 305.4, 381.26 and 381.27")

⁵ *Johanns*, 520 F. Supp. 2d at 20.

⁶ *Id.* at 19-22.

Third, because the majority of horses slaughtered in the U.S. traditionally went to European markets, restarting horse slaughter inspections would likely require USDA to impose far-reaching new procedures and rules related to horse slaughter, and to comply with new EU requirements concerning residues in food products such as horsemeat. Specifically, in 2009, the EU introduced Regulation (EC) No 470/2009 which describes required procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin.⁷ The Regulation applies to EU producers and to third countries. As a result of Regulation (EC) No 470/2009, third countries wishing to export to the EU must not only continue to submit a residue control plan, as previously required,⁸ but must now also submit an action plan setting out how they will implement new requirements mandating:

- creation of a system of identity verification for equine animals intended for food production;
- a prohibition on the use of anabolic steroids in equidae intended for meat production in the EU or a system of segregating equidae treated with steroids;
- establishment of a system providing that all equidae have lifetime⁹ treatment records documenting all substances they have been treated with (food chain information);
- competent third country authorities to guarantee compliance with required withdrawal periods for veterinary medicinal products administered to equidae; and
- third countries exporting equine meat to set up a risk-based program for controls on the use of veterinary medicinal products and substances banned for use in the EU.¹⁰

Given that U.S. slaughter facilities were not in operation when the 2009 Regulation went into effect, the U.S. has not taken steps to comply with these new requirements. Significant changes to the U.S. regulatory framework governing inspection and export of horsemeat will be needed if the U.S. wishes to resume exportation of horsemeat to the EU. For example, the U.S. does not require that horses for slaughter be accompanied by a document detailing every substance that horse has been treated with over its lifetime. Since horses in the U.S. are regularly

⁷ See Regulation (EC) No 470/2009 available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:152:0011:0022:EN:PDF>

⁸ Prior to the cessation of horse slaughter facilities in the U.S. in 2007, third countries wishing to export horsemeat to the EU were required to submit a residue control plan under Council Directive 96/23/EC. See Council Directive 96/23/EC on Measures to Monitor Certain Substances and Residues Thereof in Live Animals and Animal Products (29 April 2006), available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/council_directive_96_23ec.pdf. If EU authorities accepted the plan, the third country would be placed on an approved list of exporting nations. See Commission Decision on the approval of plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Article 29 of Council Directive 96/23/EC (16 March 2011), available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/council_directive_96_23ec.pdf. The U.S. was on the approved list.

⁹ For a transitional period of three years, third countries have to provide guarantees for horses for the last six months before slaughter. After that period, the guarantees have to be provided for the lifetime of the horse as is required in the EU. See Commissioner Dalli response to Parliamentary Question E-9125/2010.

¹⁰ See *Residues of Veterinary Products, Third Countries*, Europa Website, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/third_countries_en.print.htm.

treated with phenylbutazone,¹¹ a substance that is banned in all animals intended for human consumption in the EU,¹² the absence of a system providing the horse's sworn medical history will prevent the U.S. from meeting the requirements in EU Regulation (EC) 470/2009. Even in instances where horses may have some treatment records available, there are no guarantees on the veracity of these records.¹³

In addition to the treatment records issue, to resume exportation to the EU, USDA will have to set up a system to segregate horses treated with certain steroids, establish risk-based programs for the use of veterinary medical products and substances prohibited for in the EU, and guarantee that required withdrawal periods are respected. Voluntary or private action to comply with these requirements will not provide the guarantees necessary for approval for export. Instead, it will be incumbent upon USDA to formalize changes to the existing regulatory framework.

As in *Johanns*, these major Federal actions would be the legally relevant cause of the environmental effect of the operation of horse slaughter facilities since horse slaughter could not take place until USDA/FSIS conducts inspections.¹⁴ Moreover, a decision to restart inspections, after horse slaughter facilities have been closed since 2007, is a change in the status quo. The court in *Johanns* explained that the decision to restart inspections constituted a change in the status quo such that USDA's action was not exempt from NEPA review.¹⁵ The same reasoning applies here.

In sum, horse slaughter inspections *cannot* begin without the agency taking extensive proactive steps to comply with the law and binding court precedent.

¹¹ See, e.g., Dodman, N., et al., *Association of Phenylbutazone Usage with Horses Bought for Slaughter: A Public Health Risk*, Food Chem. Toxic. (2010), doi:10.106/j.fct.2010.02.021 (explaining that horses are not raised for food production in the U.S., and therefore may be treated with Phenylbutazone - the most widely used anti-inflammatory drug for horses due to availability and cost.)

¹² See EUROPA – Food Safety, *Imports of Animals and their Products from Third Countries*, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/residues/third_countries_en.htm (“Any horse in the EU treated with phenylbutazone must be excluded from the food chain and be signed out of the food chain in the equine passport.”)

¹³ Indeed, in response to the EU Regulation, Canada and Mexico had to modify their systems to comply with the new EU requirements. When the FVO carried out inspections in those countries, it found that both systems had gaps for horses originating in the U.S. (but which would be slaughtered in Canada and Mexico for export). See EU Final Report of an Audit Carried out in Canada from 23 November 2010 to 6 December 2010, DG (SANCO) 2010-8522 - MR FINAL at 15 (finding that “[t]he imported horses from the U.S. were accompanied by the signed Affidavit (EID) of the last owner, covering medical treatment during the last six months, which in many cases was a horse dealer. Nevertheless, no official guarantee was received...from the US authorities that this guarantee was verified and could be considered reliable.”); EU Final Report of a Mission Carried out in Mexico from 22 November 2010 to 3 December 2010, DG(SANCO) 2010-8524 - MR FINAL at 7 (explaining that although imported horses originating in the U.S. were accompanied by a “sworn statement on veterinary medical treatments, USDA does not take any responsibility with regard to the origin of the animals, to the controls over US assembly centers and to the authenticity of the sworn statement.”)

¹⁴ *Johanns*, 520 F. Supp. 2d at 27.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 20.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, USDA must prepare an environmental review pursuant to NEPA prior to starting inspections for horse slaughter. The agency must also implement changes to its regulatory framework to address new EU standards for trade in horsemeat. Should USDA resume inspections without complying with the court's holding in *Johanns*, the HSUS will take appropriate legal action to enforce the Orders of the court.

Sincerely,



Jonathan R. Lovvorn
Senior Vice President
Animal Protection Litigation &
Investigations
The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; "Leslie MacPherson Law" <leslie.macphersonlaw@vni.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:22 AM
Subject: Message from Temple Grandin

Dear Leslie - The only part of my plant that I would be involved in designing is the animal handling and stunning area. I would not be involved in waste water treatment. For me to approve a plant it must have video auditing that is monitored by people outside the plant. This prevents the problem of people "acting good" when they know they are being watched.

Sincerely,
Temple Grandin

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Message from Temple Grandin
Sent: Sun, Mar 4, 2012 10:27:02 PM

Dear Leslie - I have not been contacted by Sue Wallis concerning the specific project at Mountain Grove, Missouri.

Sincerely,
Temple Grandin

Springfield News-Leader Article Written by Wes Johnson Published 3/4/2012

[http://www.news-](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20120304/BUSINESS04/303040029/Temple-Grandin-horse-slaughter-facility-Mountain-Grove)

[leader.com/article/20120304/BUSINESS04/303040029/Temple-Grandin-horse-slaughter-facility-Mountain-Grove](http://www.news-leader.com/article/20120304/BUSINESS04/303040029/Temple-Grandin-horse-slaughter-facility-Mountain-Grove)

Grandin: Humane practices essential for horse slaughtering plant

Livestock expert says she has no ties to proposed Mountain Grove facility

Renowned livestock expert Temple Grandin says she supports the development of humane horse slaughtering facilities in the United States.

But during an interview last week in Springfield, Grandin was surprised to learn she had been listed as a designer for a Unified Equine, LLC, horse slaughtering facility near Mountain Grove.

"I had nothing to do with landing that site," said Grandin, who was in Springfield to speak at a conference on livestock grazing. "I didn't even know the name of that site until just now."

A fact sheet supplied by Wyoming state lawmaker Sue Wallis, the key organizer for the proposed Mountain Grove horse slaughtering facility, states "The animal handling facilities will be designed by Dr. Temple Grandin, a leader in animal handling systems and other leading experts such as Jennifer Wood, Livestock Handling from Alberta who has implemented humane handling standards and audits in Canadian processing facilities."

Grandin said Wallis did contact her several years ago about designing a horse slaughtering plant in Wyoming, but Grandin said the plant was never built.

She said she would consider working with Wallis on the Mountain Grove facility only if it is built with live video monitoring cameras that she would be able to access at any time over the Internet, and only if the plant design incorporates features she had pioneered to reduce stress on horses arriving for slaughter.

"If I have anything to do with it, it's gotta be done right," Grandin said. Her designs include non-skid flooring so horses don't slip and fall — a major stress inducer.

She also uses curved chutes into the processing plant, instead of straight ones, so the horses can't see humans ahead. The kill box also needs sides tall enough so the horse doesn't see the person who is about to dispatch the animal.

The Colorado State University livestock specialist, whose lifelong experience with autism gave her a unique insight into how animals deal with stress, was featured in a 2010 HBO movie that earned a best-actress Emmy for Claire Danes, who portrayed Grandin in the film.