

The 110th Congressional Session is nearing its end. This session ends at the end of 2008 and 2009 will see a new session. Bills that have not passed at the end of the session do not carry over and have to be re-introduced. We are still committed to these bills and hope to see each of them passed by the end of the session.

There are a number of issues being considered before Congress that impact our equine friends. Please take a moment to read our Alerts page about what you can do to help on the following issues.

- **Horse Slaughter:** Once again a bill to ban horse slaughter has been introduced in both the House and Senate. The House bill number is HR 503 and the Senate bill is S 311. HR 6598, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008 is another bill to end horse slaughter and is replacing HR 503 which is stalled in committee. S 311 has passed committee but is being blocked from coming to the floor for a vote.
- **Wild Horses and Burros:** A bill has been introduced in the House to restore the protections of our wild horses and burros that was removed by an amendment to the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The bill number is HR 249. It has passed in the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.
- **National Animal Identification System (NAIS):** This is an issue that will also see action in state legislation. While on the federal level NAIS is voluntary, many states are pushing for mandatory registration. Some within the USDA claim that NAIS will remain voluntary; there is a strong push to make it mandatory. Anyone who owns an animal, buys meat at the grocery store or owns a farm needs to make themselves aware of this issue.
- **Soring:** In 2006 the USDA began cracking down on trainers and owners that use Soring methods on their horses. It is important that the USDA continue their vigilance against violators of this law that has been in effect since 1971. The USDA needs increased funding to continue their work and the bill that addresses this is the Agricultural Appropriations Bill.