

**From:** Stan Weaver [mailto:stanweaver1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 2:03 PM  
**To:** (names removed to protect the recipients)  
**Subject:** HB 418 Final Comments - Success!!!

I am sure you are all aware that HB 418 has become law. Although Governor Schweitzer did not sign the bill, he still had a hand in it becoming law. The Montana Horse Industry owes him a big "Thank You."

I think each one of you can take credit in the fact that we got this bill passed. It is because of all of your phone calls, letters, faxes and e-mails that you took the time to do in order to show your passion for this cause that produced such a positive outcome. Being involved made all the difference. This was a true grass roots effort and Representative Ed Butcher told me that at the end of our campaign, calls from just Montanans were 80% in favor of the bill. That is outstanding - and really shows what a grass roots effort can do.

I would like to personally thank all of you that sent me e-mails and made phone calls to me in support. Many of you copied me letters that you had sent to the Governor, and each showed your passion and truth for this subject. Maybe one of these days I will write a book of all those e-mails and letters – there are some pretty interesting ones to say the least.

I also would like to thank the Montana Quarter Horse Association and its Board of Directors for letting me represent them in this endeavor. It was at a meeting of these folks on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> that the whole idea was born. At that meeting it was decided unanimously that we would support the Horse Processing bill, and I agreed to write a letter and Cali would send it to our members. The effort and e-mail list just grew from there.

This whole process just shows how important it is for us to get involved and do what we can. It is a different world than it was in our grandparent's day or even our parents. Now days there are people who sit in an office in Washington, D.C. or New York City, or Los Angeles and they have never calved a wild heifer or had to suckle a chilled down calf. They never had a colt buck every time they jumped him out, and knew they had to be hand enough to ride him or end up walking back to the house since there was not a horse trailer and pickup close by. Yet, these people feel that we have been doing this wrong for generations and they are sure that if they legislate their ideas it will force us to abide by them. We must be aware of what goes on around us and we must become active in preserving our way of life. I was contacted by several animal owners that have different issues with the legislature this year. I feel that before the next

legislation there will be some sort of animal owners or animal/agriculture coalition to help fight and support bills in the 2011 legislation. The tide is turning.

Our next big push will be HR 503 before the U.S. House of Representatives. This is the bill to criminalize the transport of horses that will be sold for human consumption. It is scheduled to be heard this fall. The AQHA and several of its affiliates (including Montana) will work hard to defeat this bill. I will keep you all informed as to its process and when we need to make our move and become involved.

Again, thanks for all your support and your commitment to getting HB 418 passed. You all take care and may God bless each of you until we talk again.

Best Regards,

Stan Weaver, President

Montana Quarter Horse Association