



HORSEPOWER

People Organizing for the Well-being of Equines and their Rights.

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Joint Budget Hearing

Monday, January 27, 2025

Written Testimony Submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee Regarding the Executive Budget Proposal for the Department of Agriculture and Markets

On Behalf of

HORSEPOWER, Inc

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of HORSEPOWER, Inc. HORSEPOWER was established to protect equine health and welfare, raise awareness about equine health injustices, and seek changes in public policy. We submit written testimony, so that our request is part of the official hearing record. We urge that \$200,000.00 be added to the State Fiscal Year 2025-26 spending plan in order to properly implement the strongest equine anti-slaughter legislation in the United States here in New York and \$200,000 be added to create a new holding facility for horses sopped on their way to the border for purposes of slaughter.

Thanks to the hard work of members of the Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees, this ground-breaking anti-slaughter legislation is now in effect in New York. The new Ag & Market Law prohibits any person selling, purchasing or transferring a horse when such person knows or should have reason to believe the horse will be slaughtered for human or animal consumption. The law also provides penalties for violations.

To ensure fair and effective implementation and enforcement of the law, HORSEPOWER, Inc requests a modest training grant to ensure that horses are not being transported across New York's borders destined for horse slaughter facilities outside the United State. The difficulty for officers stopping a trailer heading to the border to determine what the true purpose of transport is, justifies the need for this funding request. Equine experts can establish training and curriculum for front-line officials that will arm them with the knowledge necessary to manage roadway stops and evaluate transport at weigh stations or border stops.

HORSEPOWER, Inc is seeking support for \$200,000.00 to be included in the final 2025-26 State Budget for a comprehensive statewide training program to stop the transportation of equines for slaughter program. The training will ensure members of law enforcement and homeland security are educated in the practice of identifying when equines on trailers are suffering without rest, food, water, for long journeys that will likely terminate in their slaughter.

HORSEPOWER, Inc urges appropriation to allow for specialty training to ensure that law enforcement representatives are not burdened with managing another mandated provision without the tools necessary to keep them safe.

In addition, HORSEPOWER, Inc is requesting a \$200,000 appropriation for a holding facility in Saratoga, NY for horses rescued from slaughter trucks by NY State Troopers along the 1-87 corridor.