

AQHA PAC sets goal to derail safe Act

# AQHA Sets Goal to Derail S.A.F.E. Act Despite Huge Losses

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It's no secret that the AQHA, the largest non-profit breed association in the world, takes the most destructive and inhumane approach to horse slaughter of any of the breed groups. On the one hand, they have a Mission Statement to "*ensure the American Quarter Horse is treated humanely, with dignity, respect and compassion at all times.*" However, the world's largest breed registry needs a system to make room for the continuing mass production, hence their business model is to breed as many horses as possible (thus maintaining new memberships and registrations thus ensuring that they are a self-perpetuating entity) while discarding older or surplus horses and horses with undesirable conformation to slaughter plants.

The AQHA also has a less-well known **political action committee – AQHPAC** which has set a goal of raising \$250,000 by the 2016 elections, in part to fight the "*malicious agendas of misguided groups like the Humane Society Of The United States.*" Political donations are used to promote politicians who support the "horse industry," and advance their collective agenda. Of course, you can own several horses or run a training barn or a veterinary practice, but if you're among the 80% of Americans opposed to slaughtering horses, you're not officially part of the "horse industry" according to the AQHA. A specific goal of the AQHPAC is to defeat the **Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, H.R. 1942** which was re-introduced in 2015 to prevent the establishment of horse slaughter operations in the US, and end the current export of American horses to Canada and Mexico. It's an unbelievable slap in the face to the anti-slaughter advocates who worked incessantly for months to ensure that the previous incarnation of the act could be passed.

In 2014, here's what the list of contributions from the **AQHPAC** to federal candidates looked like:

## House

Total to Democrats: \$11,500

Total to Republicans: \$51,500

Aderholt, Robert B (R-AL) \$2,500

Alexander, Rodney (R-LA) (\$1,000)

Amodei, Mark (R-NV) \$2,000

Barrow, John (D-GA) \$500

Blackburn, Marsha (R-TN) \$500

Boehner, John (R-OH) \$2,500

Carter, John (R-TX) \$1,500

Cole, Tom (R-OK) \$2,500

Conaway, Mike (R-TX) \$1,000

Costa, Jim (D-CA) \$1,500

Crawford, Rick (R-AR) \$500

Cuellar, Henry (D-TX) \$2,500

Fleischmann, Chuck (R-TN) \$2,000

Fortenberry, Jeff (R-NE) \$500

Gibbs, Bob (R-OH) \$500

Goodlatte, Bob (R-VA) \$2,500

Granger, Kay (R-TX) \$2,000

Graves, Sam (R-MO) \$1,000

Graves, Tom (R-GA) \$2,000

Hartzler, Vicky (R-MO) \$1,500

Herrera Beutler, Jaime (R-WA) \$2,000

Hinojosa, Ruben (D-TX) \$1,500

Kind, Ron (D-WI) \$500

King, Steven A (R-IA) \$1,500

Lucas, Frank D (R-OK) \$2,500

Lummis, Cynthia Marie (R-WY) \$500

Mullin, Markwayne (R-OK) \$2,000

Noem, Kristi (R-SD) \$1,000

Nunnelee, Alan (R-MS) \$2,500

Peterson, Collin (D-MN) \$2,500

Roby, Martha (R-AL) \$2,000  
Rogers, Hal (R-KY) \$2,500  
Schrader, Kurt (D-OR) \$2,500  
Scott, Austin (R-GA) \$1,000  
Sessions, Pete (R-TX) \$2,500  
Simpson, Mike (R-ID) \$1,000  
Thornberry, Mac (R-TX) \$1,000  
Valadao, David (R-CA) \$2,000  
Womack, Steve (R-AR) \$2,000  
Yoder, Kevin (R-KS) \$1,000  
Yoho, Ted (R-FL) \$500

## Senate

Total to Democrats: \$2,500  
Total to Republicans: \$19,100

Alexander, Lamar (R-TN) \$1,000  
Cassidy, Bill (R-LA) \$2,500  
Cochran, Thad (R-MS) \$2,500  
Cornyn, John (R-TX) \$2,600  
Enzi, Mike (R-WY) \$1,500  
Ernst, Joni (R-IA) \$1,500  
Gardner, Cory (R-CO) \$0  
Inhofe, James M (R-OK) \$1,500  
Kingston, Jack (R-GA) \$1,000  
Moran, Jerry (R-KS) \$500  
Pryor, Mark (D-AR) \$2,500  
Risch, James E (R-ID) \$1,500  
Rounds, Mike (R-SD) \$1,500  
Sasse, Ben (R-NE) \$1,500

Source: [Opensecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org) and based on data released by the FEC on March 09, 2015  
(credit to the Center For Responsive Politics)

Here's a list of contributors to this PAC from **individuals donors of \$250 or more** – there's a few recognizable names here (including billionaire Forrest Lucas of **Protect the Harvest** and Dr. Tom Lenz, the subject matter expert for the **American Horse Council**, which is the Farm Bureau of the equine world). It's a list comprised of feedlot owners, veterinarians, ranchers, truckers, farm managers, business owners, horse trainers and other people who need the availability of slaughter, because without it, "it's gonna cost me \$2,000 and I still don't have a place to bury it." It goes without saying that anyone on this list donating \$250 – \$5,000 can afford to euthanize a horse.