

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 11, 2016

Dr. Kay Carter-Corker
Assistant Deputy Administrator, Animal Care
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
4700 River Road, Unit 84
Riverdale, MD 20737

RE: Docket Number APHIS-2011-0009

Dear Dr. Carter-Corker:

We are writing to request that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) extend by sixty (60) days the deadline for the submission of comments regarding the Proposed Rule entitled "Horse Protection; Licensing of Designated Qualified Persons and Other Amendments" (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0009), which would significantly change regulations associated with the Horse Protection Act.


It is our understanding that APHIS has used limited input in developing the proposed rule. The notice of proposed rulemaking invites data submissions on proposed provisions that require significant time to accurately compile. For these reasons, it is critical that APHIS provide the necessary time for stakeholders to gather evidence and information to submit substantive responses. We request that APHIS extend the deadline for the initial comment period of the Proposed Rule by sixty (60) days.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Mitch McConnell
U.S. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER


Lamar Alexander
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Bob Corker
UNITED STATES SENATOR


Rand Paul, M.D.
UNITED STATES SENATOR