March 7, 2022

The Honorable Don Beyer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Beyer:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and our millions of supporters nationwide, I write to share our endorsement of the Ejiao Act (H.R. 5203), which would amend the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ban the sale or transport of ejiao made using donkey skins, or products containing ejiao made using donkey skins, in interstate or foreign commerce.

Ejiao is a gelatin used in Chinese medicine, cosmetics, and luxury products. The ejiao industry’s demand for approximately 8-10 million donkey skins annually is decimating donkey populations, particularly in countries with high rates of poverty. Studies show that the use of donkey skins is unnecessary as gelatin can be obtained from other sources, including plants. Shockingly, the U.S. annually imports an estimated $12 million worth of ejiao, making us the world’s third largest importer, behind China and Hong Kong. Passage of the Ejiao Act is critical for protecting the world’s donkey populations.

Donkeys going to slaughter suffer long before they reach the killing floor. Up to 20% of them die in transport from stress or injuries. Slaughter practices are barbaric; inadequate stunning leaves many donkeys conscious during slaughter.

Walmart owned online retailer Jet.com, eBay, and a number of other U.S.-based companies have already pledged to remove all products containing ejiao. While this is a welcome development, only a federal ban on the commercial sale and transport of this product will send this industry a clear and firm message that the U.S. will no longer enable and reward such cruelty.

The ASPCA commends you for introducing the Ejiao Act, and urges Congress to take action on this issue immediately.

Sincerely,

Richard Patch  
Vice President of Federal Affairs  
The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals