



January 23, 2026

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

We are writing this letter in support of **House Bill 225 – the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) Sunset Extension**. This bill will extend the statutory authority of the MHIB through July 1, 2036, which would ensure continuity under the Maryland Program Evaluation Act.

Passage of the bill will not mean the creation of new programs, powers, or appropriations and would add no additional financial burden to the State. Passage of HB 225 would preserve the Horse Industry Board's authority to administer and steward dedicated industry funds, including competitive grant programs that reinvest directly into the State's horse industry. The Maryland Horse Industry Board provides an established, accountable structure for coordinating education, workforce development, animal health and welfare, equine-related economic activity statewide and as the licensing body for Maryland Licensed Stable stables. We are writing to you today as a proudly licensed stable that has been the beneficiary of several competitive grant awards throughout the years.

Allowing the Maryland Horse Industry Board to sunset would be an exceedingly inefficient lapse by subsequently eliminating an effective mechanism for managing existing resources, creating operational disruption, and risk higher costs if similar functions must later be reestablished. HB 225 supports stability and long-term planning for Maryland's \$2.9 billion horse industry, which sustains jobs, preserves open space, and contributes to the State's agricultural and tourism economies.

Further, extending the MHIB aligns with sound governance practices by maintaining oversight, transparency, and continuity while remaining subject to future evaluation under State law. Importantly, extending the Board signals to the horse industry at large and its stakeholders that the State is continuing to support the horse industry's long-term planning and investment.

We thank the Members of the Assembly for their consideration of this petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Marie Twining".

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