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House Appropriations Committee
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for HB 225
Maryland Horse Industry Board- Sunset Extension

Dear Delegate Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing in strong support of **House Bill 225**, which extends the statutory authority of the Maryland Horse Industry Board through July 1, 2036, in accordance with the Maryland Program Evaluation Act. I offer this support as a member of the Maryland Horse Industry Board, an equine law attorney, and an active equestrian. From these combined perspectives, I can attest to the importance of continuity, accountability, and stability in the governance of Maryland's horse industry.

HB 225 is a straightforward and responsible measure. The bill does not create new programs, expand powers, or require additional appropriations, and it carries no additional fiscal impact to the State. Rather, it preserves the Board's existing authority to administer and steward dedicated industry funds, including competitive grant programs that reinvest directly into Maryland's horse industry.

The Maryland Horse Industry Board provides an established and accountable structure for coordinating education, workforce development, animal health and welfare initiatives, and equine-related economic activity statewide. The Board also serves as the licensing body for Maryland Licensed Stable facilities, a critical function that supports both public confidence and industry professionalism. Allowing the Board to sunset would eliminate an effective mechanism for managing existing resources, create unnecessary operational disruption, and risk inefficiencies or increased costs should similar functions need to be recreated in the future. By contrast, extending the Board ensures continuity while maintaining appropriate oversight and transparency, as the Board remains subject to future evaluation under State law.

HB 225 supports stability and long-term planning for Maryland's \$2.9 billion horse industry, which sustains thousands of jobs, preserves open space, and contributes significantly to the State's agricultural and tourism economies. Extending the Board also sends a clear signal to industry participants and stakeholders that Maryland remains committed to thoughtful, long-term investment in this vital sector.

HB 225 Letter of Support
January 23, 2026

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 225. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Maryland's horse industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Genevieve H. R. Macfarlane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Genevieve H. R. Macfarlane, Esq.