



January 23, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **HB 225 (Support)**

Dear Chairman Barnes:

On behalf of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, I am writing to support the Sunset Extension for the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB). MHIB is the commodity board for equine under the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). We have worked closely with them since their inception on promoting the equine industry in Maryland,

The mission of the MHIB is to safeguard the health and well-being of Maryland's Horse Industry as well as to provide for its future development.

MHIB serves in the role as an important resource for horse owners, while supporting optimal standard of care for horses. They license riding stables and work to raise the level of public awareness of Maryland's equine industry with Horse Discovery Centers and events like the 2024 Maryland Equine Forum and the 2025 Horse Farm Tours that were a part of the revitalized Preakness Festival.

Here are the links with information about those events:

<https://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/pdf/HorseForumReport2024.pdf> .

<https://marylandhorse.com/article/farmtour/>

We strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB225.

Most sincerely,

Cricket Goodall
Executive Director