



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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January 23, 2020

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: Support of HB 171 - Crimes Against Animals - Interference With Livestock

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 171, legislation that expands the scope of current law that prohibits the interfering with, injuring, tampering with, or destroying a horse used for racing or breeding or for a competitive exhibition of skill, breed, or stamina by including all livestock instead of just horses. A person who violates this section of current law is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment of not less than 1 year and not exceeding 3 years.

There have been several instances over the last few years where farmers and horse owners have had people interfere with their animals and cause undue harm and potential injury. Many cases have been around horse carriage rides and at county fairs. This bill would add these livestock to current state law that prohibits someone from doing these acts of violence.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy: We oppose animal rights activism that disrupts farming operations, Ag related activities on and off the farm, fairs, racetracks, livestock sales or research facilities.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 171 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396