

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on  
HB 1282 - Real Property -Nuisance Actions - Rodent Harborage:  
**Oppose**

Hearing before the House Environment & Transportation Committee,  
March 2, 2021



The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based, umbrella trade association of the entire horse industry in Maryland. Our membership includes horse farms and stables, horse-related businesses, and horse owners, representing all facets of the Maryland equestrian community, from the owners of race horses to the owners of trail horses or just beloved retired companion horses. As such, we represent over 30,000 Marylanders.

Horse farms occupy 705,000 acres of Maryland, which is 10% of the state's total land area, and 25% of Maryland's agricultural land.

MHC believes that HB 1282 is well-intentioned and perhaps necessary in the urban context, but is unnecessary and counter-productive when applied to rural areas, and could weaken and undermine Maryland's Right to Farm laws.

Both livestock operations and crop farms often store relatively large amounts of grain. Reasonable and environmentally sound precautions are taken to minimize loss of grain stores to rodents, but a population of mice and occasionally rats are a fact of farm life. Moreover, rodents are an important part of the ecological balance throughout the rural landscape, as they are significant components of the diets of birds of prey such as hawks and eagles, as well as foxes and other predatory wildlife.

MHC could support this bill if it is amended to exempt rural and agricultural properties.

Respectfully submitted,

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