



*One Common Bond | The Horse*  
*One Common Voice | The Maryland Horse Council*

## Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on SB 378

### Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission – **SUPPORT**

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The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

MHC supports SB 378 because the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) plays an important role in the horse industry, and because horses play an important role in Southern Maryland's agricultural economy. As of 2010, the latest year for which data is available, there were 3,210 equine properties in Southern Maryland covering 30,900 acres and supporting an equine population of 17,000 horses. The value of Southern Maryland's horse-related assets is over \$703 million in 2022 dollars.

SMADC supports Southern Maryland's robust equine industry by publishing a comprehensive guide, called [Southern Maryland Horse Extra](#), that connects consumers with the horse industry. The on-line guide lists each of the Southern Maryland stables that are licensed by the Maryland Horse Industry Board, as well as the area's hay and feed suppliers; tack shops; veterinary, dental, and farrier services; clinicians, coaches, and judges; equine clubs and organizations; and riding trails.

State support for SMADC will help the horse industry continue to thrive, along with the people and businesses that rely on it.

Respectfully submitted,

**THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL**  
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)