



3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

January 19, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 116 - Agriculture - Right to Engage in Equine Activities**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 116, legislation that simply declares that the intent of the General Assembly is that residents of Maryland have a right to engage in equine activities subject to regulations and restrictions under laws enacted by the General Assembly.

The 2018 Economic Impact Study produced by the American Horse Council confirms that Maryland's horse industry adds more than \$1.3 billion to Maryland's economy. The report found that the horse industry total employment impact is more than 21,000 jobs, including a more than \$500 million impact from the horse racing sector alone. With more than 101,000 horses, Maryland boasts more horses -- 10.5 horses per square mile -- than any other state in the nation.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:**

- We support the recognition of equine as part of the agricultural industry and not as companion animals. Riding lessons, boarding, or training given on a farm, and pleasure horses should be considered a part of the normal agriculture practices.
- We strongly support responsible and workable actions designed to permit and protect the privilege and rights of farmers, commercial fisherman, and aquaculturalists, to produce without undue or unreasonable restrictions, regulations, or legislation. We support actions to ensure that farmers are protected from liability and nuisance suits when carrying out normal production practices.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 116 AND REQUEST A FAVORABLE REPORT**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

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