

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with concerns regarding the potential significant impact HB 162/SB 452 may have on the horse industry of Maryland.

In particular, I am concerned about the significant additional costs this might place on small business recreational facilities like horse riding barns, where children and adults learn to ride horses and become the future of our horse industry here in Maryland. I have seen the positive difference riding facilities can make in young people's lives like my 13 year old daughter, including the Maryland Council for Special Equestrians facility here in Catonsville where she volunteers and Waredaca Farm in Damascus where she takes lessons through the Waredaca Pony Club.

I am very concerned that this bill will have a significant negative financial impact on recreational horse riding facilities like these, who stand to face increased liability, insurance costs, and/or litigation under the bill. These organizations are already operating on extremely tight budgets and this additional financial burden may be too much to bear.

Please reconsider moving forward on these bills for the sake of Maryland's future horse industry.

Sincerely,

Marielle Weikel