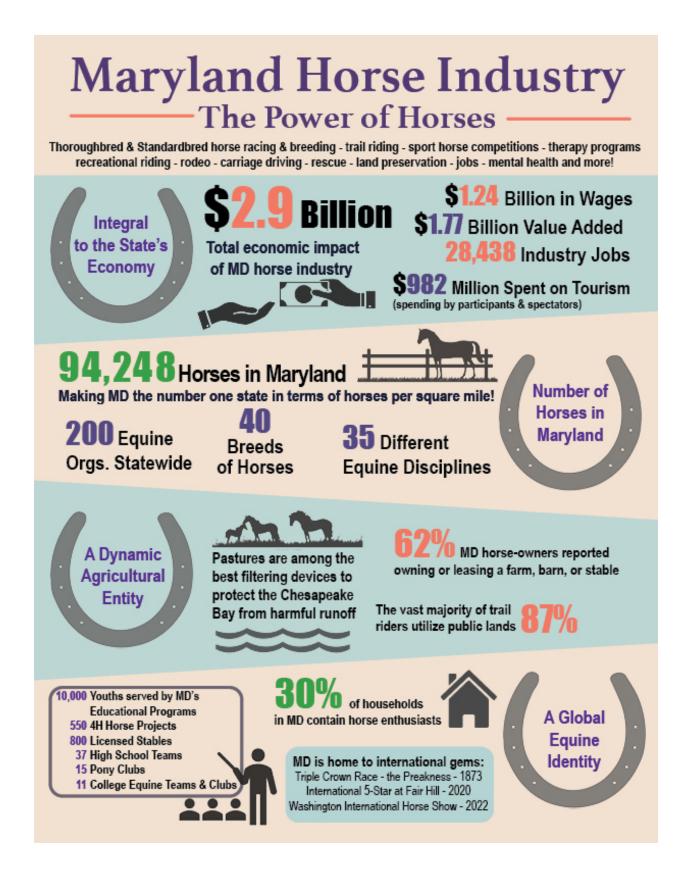
SB 452

To Whom It May Concern,

Every generation of young boys and girls in the country grow up with very positive images of horses through movies, television shows and in print through recreational reading and so on. That type of upbringing is even more so in Maryland where there are more horses and exposure to horses than in any other state per capita. One need only look at the graphics that follow to understand the significant economic impact the horse industry brings to the state on an annualized basis. But it's more than that. Horses bring happiness and positivity to countless generations of the young and the old. The Bill you are currently contemplating will, in all likely hood, financially prohibit many family farms and stables from bringing this joy to tens of thousands of future voters and taxpayers in Maryland. You should also consider the fact that many stables of in Maryland offer exposure to these magnificent animals as a form of therapy to Maryland's less fortunate amongst us. That type of thing cannot be measured in terms of money alone. For those Marylanders and their families, and military veterans, who have come to rely on this type of therapeutic exposure, the loss would be devastating. Please, on behalf of all who love horses and have come to depend on them, don't enact the Bill. The law of unintended consequences will be detrimental to the horse industry in Maryland and Marylanders will take notice of this action.



Maryland Horse Economic Impact Sectors of the Horse Industry by the Numbers



Racing Sector Total Economic Impact of Thoroughbred, Standardbred & Steeplechase Racing

\$885million

Value added to the state economy

Provides 10,951 jobs





Competition Sector Total Economic Impact of shows, events, competitions, and clinics

million

S/ Value added to the state economy







Recreational Sector Total Economic Impact of trail riders, fox hunters, pleasure riders, lessons and more Value added to the state economy Provides 4,560 jobs Rescues & Sanctuaries 3.16 million

Support & Wellness Sector

38,000

Volunteers share their

passions for horses

Therapeutic Equine Centers including over a dozen Veterans' groups

36 million Total Economic Impact from Equine Assisted Services



Economic Impact from

Rescues & Sanctuaries

Trail riding: 9.8%, or 230,763 households in Maryland. The vast majority of trail riders-87%-utilize public lands. Lessons: 6.0%, or 141.283 households in Maryland.

Information provided by: The American Horse Council Economic Impact Study 2024, University of Maryland, IEA & IHSA, US Pony Club, Maryland Horse Industry Board

Designed by The Maryland Horse Industry Board/Anne Litz