

HB 162/SB 452 - Courts - Prohibited Liability Agreements - Recreational Facilities

My name is Beth Goldring. I am the managing member of Solidarity Farm, LLC. This is a recreational sports facility in Anne Arundel County. We are a horse boarding facility.

I stand in vehement opposition to the passing of this bill.

The horse industry is already struggling in Maryland. This removal of enforceable liability waivers will be a significant detriment to all equine facilities. Not allowing boarding barns or event facilities to protect themselves will require insurance premiums to skyrocket. Most facilities are barely hanging on currently with the increase in cost of supplies and labor. I have watched a significant number of barns close over the last few years alone. By taking away our ability to protect ourselves, you will require us to pay incredible premiums. This will effectively shut down all barns. No farm that I know of can shoulder higher premiums. I have lived in Anne Arundel County my whole life. I have been part of the equine industry here for at least 30 years. I know it well and am certain in my statements.

I implore the committee to support the horse industry and DENY this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.