

Dear Judicial Committee,

I am writing to ask you **not** to support SB0452/HB0162 Courts – Prohibit Liability Agreements – Recreational Facilities

This will jeopardize my business as well as other businesses that offer recreational activities. As an alternative, I ask that you support an amendment to exclude the horse industry from this bill.

The Maryland Horse Industry is a \$2.9 Billion dollar industry in Maryland that needs your support.

My business is Enticement Stables which is an equestrian education center. We bring over 200 people weekly to our farms so they can enjoy the horses, exercise, and enjoy open outdoor spaces that are not found anywhere else in our County. We house over 100 horses on 450 acres in Harwood, Maryland just 10 miles from our state capital. If this bill was to pass as written, we would be in jeopardy of going out of business due to a rise in insurance costs and possible litigations by not having a liability agreement. Let me just say that in our 22 years of business we have never been in court (knock on wood) and run a safe operation. But we are surrounded by horses that are flight animals and can get scared and react in various ways that could cause injury. Our Liability agreement brings this to everyone's attention before they participate in equestrian activities on our farm. By passing this bill and taking away our liability agreement you will open our farm and others up to any number of situations that we have no control over and will potentially take us out of business.

If this occurs the economic impact to Anne Arundel County will be very significant. Here are the annual figures just from our farm. We employ over 27 employees for a total of \$495,000, our local feed stores have \$92,000 of business from us. Our local farmers receive over \$36,000 in hay sales. The local sawmills provide our sawdust at a cost of \$31,450. We have 3 local blacksmiths that get paid more than \$55,480 just for our lesson horses. Our local Veterinarians are paid \$ 36,264 just for our lesson horses. Our owners pay their bills directly to blacksmith and Veterinarians. The Stables rents 3 farms to operate the business on which pays them over \$225,000 annually. This helps keep our farms as open space for the entire communities.

Our farms are open to not only horse enthusiasts but local groups such as 4-H, FFA, Boy/Girl Scouts and homeschools, to use our open spaces for education and badge work. We are the home to Indian Creek School Intercollegiate Equestrian Riding team and in conjunction with our own IEA team we have 60 riders that compete in 3 different states representing our community well.

Enticement Stables is more than a business to me. It is a way to teach the community about not only horses but taking care of the land and saving it for generations to come. We luckily are not in this business for the profit as most years break even. If we are held up in court costs and cannot at least break even, we will close our gates to the public and not be able to share it with the community. This would be a tragedy for the community that would be very limited to open space they could enjoy for their mental health and wellness.

These are just a few of the reasons not to support SB0452HB0162. We hope that you will support an amendment to exclude the Maryland Horse Industry and all horse activities.

Thank you,

Deana B. Tice

EN-TICE-MENT STABLES, LLC

443-336-8492

4252 Blair Lane

Harwood, MD 20776

www.enticementstables.com

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