

The Mill

Bel Air • Black Horse • Hampstead • Hereford • Kingstown • Red Lion • Whitesford

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair
Ways & Means Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB1524 (Support)

Dear Chair Atterbeary and members of the Committee:

On behalf of our company The Mill, I am writing to support HB1524. The passage of the Horse Racing Facility Ownership and Construction – Racing Operations bill is important to the future of the horse industry. The Mill is headquartered in Bel Air, but we have five other stores in Maryland to serve the equine community. Started in 1957 as the Bel Air Farm Supply currently, as a large supplier of feed, equine related products and farm supplies, we also deliver to Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course, Fair Hill Training Center and many of the breeding farms in the region.

Our agronomy department advises Thoroughbred farms on pasture management, state nutrient management requirements, equine nutrition and health and any other needs related to the agricultural component of their business. With a staff of 170 full-time employees and another 30 seasonal workers our business is directly tied to the health of horse industry in Maryland.

We support this legislation because it addresses the need for a long-term plan for the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry in Maryland. This will give those in the horse business the future stability that is so important when making investment decisions.

We applaud the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority (MTORA) for the work they have done to date and look forward to being a part of the revitalization of the Thoroughbred industry in Maryland.

On behalf of The Mill we urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB1524.

Sincerely,

Henry Holloway
President



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