

## **Water Hay Oats Alliance** **Stop Race Day Medication**



The Honorable Lee Terry  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Terry and Ranking Member Schakowsky,

The Water Hay Oats Alliance (WHOA), representing more than 400 horse industry members, applauds the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade, for holding a hearing on Thursday, November 21st to examine the epidemic of drugs in horse racing.

There are 38 racing jurisdictions in the US and 38 separate regulatory bodies. As a result and despite efforts to self-regulate as intended by the Interstate Horseracing Act, the industry is a morass of rules and regulations. With this backdrop, the administration of drugs to race horses, legal and illegal, is common practice and the public is well aware that drugs often play a bigger role in the outcome of races than do the natural abilities of the horses competing. This fact has driven fans away from racing to sports that provide its athletes with a level playing field.

WHOA recognizes that the practice of drugging horses undermines the integrity of the racing breeds, including thoroughbreds, standardbreds and quarter horses, and threatens the future of horse racing. The public is disgusted and horrified by the frequent breakdown of horses. An astounding 24 horses die every week on racetracks in the US and the vast majority of those were on performance-enhancing drugs.

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act proposes a concrete solution by assigning to the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) the authority to work with the industry to establish uniform drug rules, to centralize the drug testing in USADA-designated drug testing laboratories and to establish uniform penalties for all drug violations in the US.

WHOA wholeheartedly supports Congressional action. It is long overdue and the very future of racing in America depends on it.

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