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The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Chairwoman
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Schakowsky and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers,

I am a fourth generation horseman who owns and operates Stone Farm in Bourbon County Kentucky, where we have raised three Kentucky Derby winners, several Champions and just this week the 2019 Horse of the Year, Bricks and Mortar. I am writing to plead with you to consider implementing HR1754, the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019.

The sport of horseracing is in grave danger. Horses are breaking down from coast to coast, and the bloom is sadly fading from the rose of our sport. As I see it, the only hope we have of surviving is the Horseracing Integrity Act. That is my opinion of the gravity of the situation.

The racetrack veterinarians and their suppliers, the drug companies, have hijacked our sport and continue to drug these horses to the point that they are fragile and unsound. Hence, the injury and fatality rate has soared. For instance, in the last few days, three horses have died at Santa Anita and four in Louisiana. Racing will have no future unless we put a stop to the unnecessary proliferation of drugs.

You will hear arguments that horses need these “therapeutic” medications in order to run, but I contend that if horses need drugs to run they should not be running. But, the racetrack veterinarians are now in charge of a once great sport and a vicious circle has been created. The vets convince the trainers, the trainers convince the owners, and the horses and the sport they represent are the victims.

I once questioned the racetrack veterinarian who was treating our horses. I said that I didn't want him to use any more drugs on my horses. His reply was: “Well Arthur, you want to win races don't you?”

In closing, I would pose the question of why American horses need these drugs to perform, while the rest of the world races their horses drug free or at least with sufficient withdrawal times to prevent the drugs from being performance enhancing and detrimental to the horses.

The Horseracing Integrity Act will give us badly needed uniformity across the country and will place America on the fair and square footing that is practiced by the rest of the world.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Hancock".

Arthur Hancock
Stone Farm, President
Water Hay Oats Alliance, Supporting Member
The Jockey Club, Member
Kentucky State Racing Commission, Former Commissioner

cc:

Congressman Larry Bucshon, Congressman Michael C. Burgess, Congressman Tony Cardenas, Congressman Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, Congresswoman Kathy Castor, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Congressman Greg Giantforte, Congressman Brett Guthrie, Congressman Richard Hudson, Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly, Congressman Robert E. Latta, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui, Congressman Jerry McNerney, Congressman Tom O'Halleran, Congressman Frank Pallone, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Congressman Bobby Rush, Congressman Darren Soto, Congressman Fred Upton, Congressman Marc A. Veasey, Congressman Greg Walden