

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Chairwoman
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Schakowsky and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

First, thank you for your work on behalf of our state. We are reaching out to you on behalf of the thousands of West Virginia Horsemen regarding H.R. 1754, a bill titled Horseracing Integrity Act.

The Charles Town Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association (CTHBPA) represents the horse owners and trainers that participate in racing at Charles Town. We are very concerned about, and have strong opposition towards H.R. 1754 the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019. Our President, Board of Directors, members, and staff share a commitment to the welfare of our equine athletes and the people that work with these horses daily.

If enacted H.R. 1754 would strip authority from our State Racing Commission and create a new, duplicative regulatory bureaucracy at the federal level. Moreover, this new bureaucracy will create a new structure of fees and taxes to cover some of the federal costs of the new regulatory structure, and those fees and taxes would come from horse owners and the industry at-large. Our members are facing ever increasing costs associated with racing and we believe additional fees and/or taxes will force many of our members out of business.

Additionally, H.R. 1754 also seeks to ban the choice to administer the therapeutic medication Lasix, or Furosemide on the day of the race. This medication is used in horses to control or prevent Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhages (EIPH). Research tells us almost all horses experience an EIPH episode during intense exercise, such as during races.

Lasix is recognized as an effective, preventative treatment for "bleeding" in the lungs of horses, which is the reason its use is recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the North American Association of Racetrack Veterinarians as being safe and effective. These veterinary leadership organizations believe the use of Lasix to treat EIPH is in the best interests of health and welfare for our equine athletes.

According to a recent American Horse Council economic impact study, the horse racing sector contributes some \$36 billion annually to the national economy and provides about 240,000 direct jobs. In our state, racing creates over 6900 jobs, generates over \$253 million in revenue and over \$80 million in employee compensation. We believe the measures set forth in this bill will add unnecessary

regulatory and financial burdens which will harm state and local economies that depend on the industry. Therefore we urge you to oppose the Horseracing Integrity Act (H.R. 1754) and we the undersigned continue to stand ready to discuss this matter with you at any time. Please feel free to reach out to us for any additional information that you may require.

Sincerely,

The Horsemen of West Virginia

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Lloyd Scott
Mike Rose
Clarence Ritchie
Joan Wallen
Gloria McCormick
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