

# SUBMISSIONS FOR THE RECORD

HR 1518/S 1406

PAST ACT

November 10, 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Re: H.R. 1518, PAST Act.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mindy Patterson and I am President and co-founder of The Cavalry Group, a private member-based company working to protect and defend the Constitutional and private property rights of law abiding animal owners, and animal related businesses legally, nationwide.

The Cavalry Group represents a large number of Tennessee Walking Horse owners and trainers. Over the last two years, we have seen first hand the influence of animal rights activism within the USDA, especially by the Humane Society of the United States, resulting in wrongful abuse of the Rules implemented by USDA in regulating the Walking Horse industry via the Horse Protection Act. Accordingly, law-abiding horse owners are being wrongfully disqualified by USDA inspectors, while being fined tens of thousands of dollars in illegitimate penalties.

- ✓ The Horse Protection Act “as is” is adequate and is working as evidenced by the industry’s high compliance rate of over 98%.
- ✓ USDA is already abusing the rules to regulate the Tennessee Walking Horse industry. If HR 1518 were to pass, you will be giving USDA **more** power and the ability to overreach. **Do we really want to give government more power?**
- ✓ HR 1518 would be problematic as it eliminates the opportunity for the industry to self regulate as it makes USDA the sole inspection entity.
- ✓ While every industry has its “bad actors” the Tennessee Walking Horse industry has a 98% compliance rate of clean inspections in recent years.
- ✓ HR 1518 is less about the welfare of horses and more about regulating an industry out of business. The U.S. cannot afford to lose more jobs.

- ✓ HR 1518 increases horse show participants' financial exposure from fines, and discourages participation while destroying an industry that has a significant economic impact for many communities across the United States.
- ✓ HR 1518 gives USDA more power to abuse the American people.

I urge you to please vote NO on HR 1518, also known as the PAST Act.

Sincere regards,

Mindy Patterson

President

The Cavalry Group

11/8/2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing,  
and Trade

From: Chase H. Tipton

Re: H.R. 1518

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Have you ever had a piece of your life, your love, your passion, or perhaps your lively hood threatened over misconstrued information, a lack of education, and even just pure evil intent? My name is Chase Tipton and this is why I strongly oppose H.R. 1518. I was born and still live in East Tennessee, which is an area where the Tennessee Walking horse thrives and continues to change lives of every person that surrounds them. As an infant, I was on a padded performance walking horse the day I left the hospital and arrived at my home. Growing up, my family allowed me to be around every aspect of the breed. We have just a very small farm, but we raise several colts a year, being at the foot of the Great Smokey Mountains, trail horses are a must, but nothing compares to the two or three padded show horses we keep each year. I showed my first padded performance horse when I was 10 years at the Smokey Mountain Classic in Harriman, Tennessee. It was also my first blue ribbon; however, the significance was not the blue ribbon but the fact I was showing a stallion in a novice class as a juvenile. How many performance horses in other breeds would be safe enough and have the demeanor, the behavior, and the personality for a youth rider to show and compete at a competitive level? That's what makes our padded walking horse so unique! The older I got, I continued to find myself working my summers in barns because there is so much fulfillment in providing care for these magnificent animals and taking colts from the field and preparing them for show ring competition. They are so intelligent and bred with not only a willingness to learn but a natural talent to excel in the show ring. Riding and training these horses is something that my father and I continue to do. Horseshows have and will always be a family affair to us. A horseshow is also where I met my bride. These horses are a passion that we both share. Our date night is a Saturday night under the lights watching a padded performance horse in the show ring while the organist serenades the crowd. This is the kind of atmosphere I want to raise my children, so I don't have to worry what kind of trouble they may get in or what kind of person they may grow up to be. My walking horse family is made up of great people that not only love the horse but

want the best for the horse and their community. The only way for my children to have the same childhood memories and opportunities that I had is for this bill, H.R. 1518 to be voted down and not pass.

Not only does the padded performance bring families together, it also brings economic stability to states, cities, towns, communities, organizations, clubs, and most importantly charities. All shows are put on to benefit some organization or charity. I am a member of the Smokey Mountain Walking Horse Association. We put on a show every year to benefit the Dream Connection. We help some child with a life threatening illness to fulfill a dream. One child wanted to go meet Mickey Mouse. We helped child raise money to purchase a service dog that helped change his life. This industry has a major impact economically on our state and many others as well. These horseshows bring in money to cities and towns for hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc.... I urge you to look at all aspects and consider the affect you will cause if H.R.1518 passes, please oppose this bill!

Thank You,

Chase H. Tipton

11/8/13

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

From: Monica L. Tipton

Re: H.R. 1518/S.1406 – PAST ACT

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Monica Tipton and I live in East Tennessee. I have owned and showed Tennessee Walking Horses all of my life and I OPPOSE H.R. 1518. Let me first give you a little background so you can better understand why this wonderful breed and industry is so important to me, I'm 25 years old and have been on the back of a horse since I could walk and probably even before then, my parents and family have owned TWH since before I was born. I grew up trail riding in The Great Smoky Mountains and surrounding areas as well as showing my horse at local shows. We attend the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, TN every year and attend other shows in east TN and middle TN throughout the show season each year. In fact my husband and I met at a horseshow in October of 2010 and dated for 2 years, we got married this past April. I'm so thankful that I met him and if it wasn't for walking horses or that horseshow we wouldn't have met. These are all times and memories that I cherish and look forward to many more because they are spent with my family and friends!

I love every single one of my horses dearly and they are a part of my family just like our other animals and pets. Our horses are fed twice a day, groomed on a regular basis, bathed, their stalls are cleaned every other day, and they are ridden/exercised several times a week. In the summer they are kept cool in our barns with plenty of water and fans running. And in the winter they are kept warm with closed doors, blankets, and heaters. A majority of the horses live better than some people do. Our horses are taken care of and we take great pride in our breed. Tennessee Walking horses are a magnificent breed, they love what they do. I can tell you from experience, there is a rush of adrenaline when you are fixing to enter the show ring on a padded TWH because you can feel them underneath you swell up with pride and enjoyment as they begin to step into the ring.

I love going to horse shows and TWH events because it is something that my family does together and you get to see your Tennessee walking horse

industry “family”. Each horse show that is held benefits a charity of some kind, whether it is a Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, high school booster club, a children’s foundation, etc.... Many charities depend on these horseshows for funding and financial support. If you eliminate the action devices and padded TN Walking Horse you will hurt and eliminate clubs and charities as well. I’m a member of The Smoky Mountain Walking Horse Association here in East TN and we put on a show every year. For the past several years we have donated money to The Dream Connection, a foundation that makes dreams come true for children with terminal illness and their families by helping fund a wish or dream that the child has, whether it be to go on a vacation that they have never been on or to maybe meet a famous singer or one of their heroes. I would like for each and every one on this committee to take a moment and think of these charities and clubs that help do so much in our communities big and small throughout the United States before you make your decision on how to vote. If this bill passes it will eliminate 85% of the horse shows. These horseshows give people clean family fun and something to do on the weekends and they each have a financial and economic effect on our towns and cities. Many businesses’ in middle TN and mainly Shelbyville depend and count on The Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration to make it financially and keep their doors open from year to year. That horseshow brings in more money in those 10 days than the rest of the year for many businesses in Shelbyville, TN and surrounding areas. If you eliminate the action devices and padded TWH’s you will essentially be eliminating the TWH industry. Please consider the affect it will have on our great state of TN. This is nothing more than driven by the HSUS, that in the past have questionable fundraising tactics and other legal issues. Mr. Whitfield, the man that proposed this bill is married to Connie Harriman-Whitfield who is Senior Policy Advisor for the HSUS, That is a conflict of interest! There is nothing scientific about this, in fact the prestigious veterinarian school at the University of Auburn did a study that has proven a 6oz or less action device and pad does not hurt the TWH.

I know I’m not the only one with a story like this, there are thousands of other people that love their horses and it would have a negative effect on them if you let this bill pass and eliminate the padded TWH. I sincerely hope that everyone thinks this through and considers the negative things it will do if you ban action devices and pads. I look forward to spending those times at horse shows and the barn with my family and friends and hope I have the chance to make more lasting memories to add to the great ones already made. I encourage you to OPPOSE H.R. 1518. Thank you for your time to read my letter.

Sincerely, Monica L. Tipton

November 8, 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry Re: H.R. 1518, Bill to Amend the Horse Protection Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Heather Beard and I ask you to oppose the H.R. 1518 bill being brought before you. I am a small business owner that relies heavily on the walking horse industry. My husband is a walking horse trainer. My mother works at a veterinary clinic that deals mostly with walking horses. My father makes horseshoes for mostly walking horses. My entire family puts food on our table because of the walking horse industry. If this bill is passed, we will all be out of work.

I have been around walking horses my entire life. I currently own 2 show horses. My husband has 25 other show horses in his barn. If this bill is passed all of these horses will have no purpose. I am afraid to think of what will happen to the thousands of other show horses that will in essence lose their jobs if this bill is passed. We treat our horses like pets and they are truly a part of our family. They are groomed, exercised and feed well every day. If this bill passes, what will happen to them? It is likely a lot will be left out to starve or worse sent to slaughter.

The entire bill is being pushed and funded by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Congressman Whitfield's wife is a senior advisor for the HSUS, I would call that a conflict of interest. The HSUS itself is being questioned everywhere you turn, including a possible investigation by congress. The HSUS is intent on getting rid of all domestic animals, our horses may be first but your dogs and cats could be next. God made animals to be used by humans; there is a reason that human beings are at the top of the food chain not the bottom!

This bill will eliminate the HIO system entirely. This has been tried before and it failed. Why would we want to do something again that has failed once already? That makes no sense! HIOs can issue violations and penalties to the HPA immediately, the USDA cannot. The country is in such financial turmoil right now, why would we want to take away the HIO system (which the industry pays for) and put more burden on the tax payers by asking the USDA to inspect entirely by themselves. Their budget will exponentially increase, more than I'm sure they want to admit.

The bill will also eliminate a majority of show divisions of the walking horse breed. The ban on weighted shoes, pads and action devices is just ridiculous and has



no scientific backing. The Auburn Study, the only study done on this subject, concluded that a 6oz action device and pads do not harm the horse. The USDA wants to employ more objective and scientific inspection processes yet this bill wants to eliminate action devices and pads based on opinion and no facts at all.

Please do your research before just taking the HSUS's word on this bill. Check the facts not the opinions. Visit with industry leaders and go see these horses in person. I guarantee you it will be a completely different experience than what the HSUS is showing you. I beg you to please oppose bill H.R. 1518. American citizens will lose their jobs. Families will not have food to eat. And thousands of horses will lose their jobs. All because of the HSUS agenda!

Sincerely,

Heather Beard

111 Anthony Rd

Wartrace, TN 37183

November 8, 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Christy Lantis

Member, California Tennessee Walking Horse Association; Director & Vice President of Performance Horse Division, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeder's and Exhibitor's Association, Secretary/Treasurer, West Coast Walking Horse Trainers' Association

Re: HB 1518—"The Whitfield Amendment"

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to consider the input of members of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry. Those of us that have spent our lives breeding, showing, buying, selling and loving these beautiful animals are greatly concerned by potential of negative impact of HB 1518. Personally, I have been involved in this breed for 48 years, and spend a great deal of time and effort supporting this breed.

This bill is extremely flawed and purports to correct issues that it will not. As you most likely know, the industry has a compliance rate of approximately 98%, meaning that those horses inspected pre and post show are presented correctly and in accordance with the Horse Protection Act. This bill will not correct or eliminate that 2% of 'wrong doers'.

This bill will most likely decimate the show segment, and therefore will eliminate the breeding segment of our breed. The vague language contained within this bill would stifle the Tennessee Walking Horse for years to come while the Secretary of Agriculture attempts to define. In the meantime, this breed, industry, and the jobs associated with it, would die.

Sincerely,

Christy Lantis

14632 Walnut Street

Hesperia, CA 92345

November 8, 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

Re: H.R. 1518, Bill to Amend the Horse Protection Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brad Beard and I ask you to oppose the H.R. 1518 bill being brought before you. I am a young walking horse trainer. My wife is a small business owner that relies heavily on the walking horse industry. Our family eats everyday because of the walking horse industry. If this bill is passed, our family will not eat or be able to pay our bills.

I currently have 25 horses at my barn. These horses are treated like family pets. They are groomed and bathed every day. We feed them hay, grain and water every day. They live in clean stalls. They are exercised every day. And most days given special treats by myself or their owners. These horses are not only my way of feeding my family, they are my friends.

The entire bill is being pushed and funded by the Humane Society of the United States. Congressman Whitfield's wife is a senior advisor for the HSUS, I would call that a conflict of interest. The HSUS itself is being questioned everywhere you turn, including a possible investigation by congress. The HSUS is intent on getting rid of all domestic animals, our horses may be first but your dogs and cats could be next.

This bill will eliminate the HIO system entirely. This has been tried before and it failed. HIOs can issue violations and penalties to the HPA immediately, the USDA cannot. The country is in such financial trouble right now, why would we want to take away the HIO system (which the industry pays for) and take more money from the tax payers by asking the USDA to inspect entirely by themselves. Their budget will exponentially increase, more than I'm sure they want to admit.

The bill will also eliminate a majority of show divisions of the walking horse breed. The ban on weighted shoes, pads and action devices is just ridiculous and has no scientific backing. The Auburn Study, the only study done on this subject, concluded that a 6oz action device and pads do not harm the horse. The USDA wants to employ more objective and scientific inspection processes yet this bill wants to eliminate action devices and pads based on opinion and no facts at all.

Every horse in my barn will be out of a job. It scares me to think of what will happen to them if this industry is destroyed.

Please do your own research (not just believe everything the HSUS is throwing at you) before voting on this bill. I beg you to please oppose bill H.R. 1518. My family and I ask you to oppose this bill for us and the many other families and horses it will so severely affect.

Sincerely,

Brad Beard

111 Anthony Rd

Wartrace, TN 37183

November 7, 2013                      2:00 pm

To: House Committee on Energy & Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, & Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Sherry White, President, National TN Walking & Racking Horse Association

Re: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As President of the NTWRHA, I am deeply concerned about the breed specific legislation, Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act. Our national Tennessee Walking, Racking and Spotted Saddle horse organization is based around the showing of these talented athletes. Passing this poorly written legislation would result in the elimination of not only ours, but also several other equine organizations. The confirmation of the show Tennessee Walking Horse is different from the trail horse. They have been breed specifically to perform the animated gait that only a Tennessee Walker may achieve. These horses once eliminated from the show ring, will have no other purpose. The tack stores, truck and trail sales, grain mills and countless other businesses will be affected greatly.

At this time our Horse Inspection Persons (HIO's) are paid by the industry participants to thoroughly inspect each and every horse going into the show ring. Their success in achieving a clean-footed horse has been outstanding. The

USDA numbers evidence the progress made in the past several years. With the passing of this proposed legislation the financial burden would fall to the government, the estimated cost into the millions per year. Therefore, I urge you to strongly consider rejecting the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act.

Respectfully,

Sherry M. White

25065 Milford Road

South Lyon, MI 48178

To: House committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Frances Bates

Re: HR 1518 / S 1406 also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee;

I have been hands on involved with Tennessee Walking Horses for 45 years. I strongly Oppose this legislation and would respectfully request you vote NO on this Bill. Because HR 1518 is:

**Deceptive:** Does NOTHING to stop "soring" But will Stop 85% or more, of "Showing" and as written, even Trail Riding!! In the past 6 years over a half million horses have had hands on inspections by USDA or their approved officials, with 98% compliance. If this bill passes, it will Punish 98% of Law abiding participants, because of a 2% fail rate!

**Confusing:** This bill is poorly written, by people who know little to nothing about a Horse and misunderstood by those who have submitted and support it.

This is evident by a letter from Whitfield and Cohen, sent to the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' & Exhibitors' Association, stating not all shoes will be pulled. But the Bill clearly states on Pg 9, lines 1-11: No weighted shoe (all shoes have wt) that is Not Strictly Protective or Therapeutic will Not be allowed.

Keith Dane of HSUS, the writers of the bill, informed TWHBEA at their May 2013 Meeting: "No Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse or Spotted Saddle Horse will be "ALLOWED" to wear shoes" ... Voice Mag., May/June 2013, pg. 68, column 3.

**Breed Specific Legislation:** It only affects Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses and Spotted Saddle Horses. Restricting equipment that is used by other horse breeds because these horses have a "history". Is this Not called Racial Profiling?

The Horse Protection Act as currently written addresses abuse and provides adequate supervision of the breed. Therefore, **I urge the committees to Vote No on HR 1518.**

Many Thanks,  
Frances Bates, Wartrace, TN

November 6, 2013

8:00 pm

To: House Committee on Energy & Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, & Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Maggie-Mae White, Albion College Student, Public Policy

Re: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am strongly opposed to Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act. This breed specific legislation has the potential to set up the equine show industry to be abolished. The precedent it sets reaches far beyond the commerce law (Horse Protection Act) of 1970. This is another attempt to overstep the boundaries of the original intent of the 1970 law. Adequate funding has not been proposed to carry out the provisions of the unwise legislation. The loss of jobs will be significant not only in Tennessee but around the country.

Throughout my grammar school and college years I have been very active in the equine sport. I am very concerned that this will open the door for the HSUS to continue its quest to eliminate that sport, one breed at a time. I own, ride, show and breed Tennessee Walking Horses. They are well cared for athletes that will become lawn ornaments if this proposed legislation is passed. Many horses bred with the conformation of a show horse will be unable to perform well on the trail. Although my family is financially able to care for our horses until their natural passing it is an established fact that the many families that rely on their equine related business will not have that ability. I am concerned that the destruction of the natural use of our horses will result in a huge number of horses becoming unwanted, not because of desire, but because of lack of funds. Feeding ones family will take precedence over feeding animals when their business is decimated.

The Tennessee Walking Horse Industry has achieved a level of compliance not even thought of in the 1970's. Unlike the falsified numbers provided by former leaders in this industry such as Marty Irby, the USDA has provided factual numbers agreeing to the high level of achievement the industry has produced. In fact, Marty Irby has opened a business in direct competition to our registry; this looks to be an attempt to discredit TWHBEA for personal gain. A recent poll



proposed to be a reflection of the TWHBEA breed registry members does not represent its actual members. As a long time member, I did not receive the poll, nor did several of the members who openly support our show horse. This deceptive push poll was used as a gimmick to confuse those without an intimate understanding of our industry.

I sincerely pray that my children will have the same opportunity to grow up on a farm and enjoy horses as I have. I urge you to strongly consider the false information provided to you when you consider the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act and decline your support.

Respectfully,

Maggie-Mae White

Maggie-Mae White

401 Fitch Street

Albion, MI 49224

November 8, 2013

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I show flat shod Tennessee Walking Horses (TWHs) only! I retired in 2000 and looked at every video on the internet. I wanted to know everything about TWHs. I looked at the old pictures of sore horses on the Animal Rights & Sound Horse Advocates websites. All this information so proudly shows us as a reason for eliminating padded horses. I saw these images before I bought my first horse in 2006. In 2008, I started showing flat shod TWHs. I've been scanning horse shows including The Celebration and have never seen a horse like the ones shown in this information. If I did I would turn it in myself.

Showing only 5 years, here is what I've discovered. The only image of a legal padded shoe on some sites is an image of a pad with 49 nails. If you know what you're looking for, it's an x-ray so it's confusing, the top 1/4" pad is the only one nailed to the horses' hooves with 8 nails just like any other shoe, they have the hooks at the top. The rest of the pad is built with all the other 30 nails. The 1/2" extension around the hoof is nailed at a 45 degree angle (10 nails) to the built-up pad.

In 1988, a judge threw out the pads or packages you see in the other photographs in their information many having dates before I bought my first horse. The Horse Protection Act came about in 1972, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1821(3). The Act gives the Secretary of Agriculture broad rulemaking authority to pursue that end. See 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1828. It makes some of those packages 25 to 41 years old. Because sore horses were happening before 1972 they may be older than 41 years. Did sore horses happen 25 years ago or before I started showing, yes it did. If it was happening today as they depict in these old photo shopped images, they would update their pictures.

In 1988, see American Horse Protection Association (AHPA) v. Lyng, 812 F.2d 1 (D.C.Cir.1987) and see AHPA v. Lyng, 681 F.Supp.949 (D.D.C. 1988), the packages you see today came about after a study by Auburn University. In 1990, AHPA was back in court claiming the 6oz chain was too big. I guess they were satisfied with the padded package that's still in use today. See 9 C.F.R. Sec. 11.2(b)(1)-(2) (1990).

To get a horse through inspection today they are palpated, thermo-scanned, x-rayed, swabbed, blood tested and eye scans coming this year. If you win your class 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>, you get to repeat these inspections. All done by USDA VMOs and USDA trained DPQs. Both flat shod and padded! With all this technology, I find it interesting that the majority of the tickets written are from palpation. That was a part of the Horse Protection Act in 1972.

Look at the tickets written for one foot or unilateral. Where did that come from? It's not in the Horse Protection Act. Or, who would sore one foot on a horse. There were 520,750 horses inspected between 2007 and 2012. Horses detected with bilateral violations were 331 or .064%, scar violations 1521 or .29%. Scar violations, I've asked trainers to show me. Sometimes I feel nothing, sometimes a wrinkle, sometimes a callous but never an open wound. Both of these scar violations I've found very subjective.

The industry wants technology to detect sore horses not new laws. I've worked 35 years in the computer industry; I am amazed that the only way to detect a sore horse today is by pinching their fetlocks. In 2011, my mare which I raised from a baby, became a Reserve World Champion in the Trail Pleasure Division. My horse's fetlock was palpated by a trained DQP; he said my horse was sore on one foot. The USDA VMO at the Celebration palpated and x-rayed my horse and found nothing wrong with my horse. Had it not been for the x-ray, my horse may have been eliminated from the competition because of ancient testing methods from 1972. I've witnessed what they have been complaining about. I've only seen 3 major players convicted of sore horses with all of the technology available to the industry. Have you ever got a hamburger that look like the ones on the menu at McDonalds? Probably not, because they are staged by professional photographers.

I'm not in any way trying to convert anyone to pads, if you don't like them that's your business. I'm not one to point my finger at someone until I do my very own research. Most of what you see on the internet about these horses is old information; some of it is 25 to 40 year old news and nothing to do with the new generation of people showing horses today.

I'm opposed to H.R. 1518/Past Act. These bills are written by Animal Rights Activists and designed to eliminate the show horse, not just padded, also the flat shod horse.

Sincerely  
Donald M. Gallion  
Shreveport, Louisiana

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Tanya Strickland, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA), Board of South Carolina Walking Horse Association (SCWA), Realtor with Keller Williams, Owner of Strickland Services, Inc. Pest Control Company, Dental Hygienist.

Re: H.R. 1518/S. 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am opposed to H.R. 1518/S. 1406 (aka the PAST Act). In my opinion, this bill is unnecessary as the Horse Protection Act has been successful in eliminating the practice of "soring" in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry. Statistics from USDA/APHIS show that we have a compliance rate of over 98%, which is fantastic by anyone's standards. We continue to self-regulate in the attempt to reach complete compliance. Also, this proposed legislation is breed specific (Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses and Spotted Saddle Horses.) There are several other breeds of horses that use the same type shoeing and action devices that this legislation wants to eliminate.

If this legislation is passed, it will have far-reaching devastating effects economically – the horses will be of virtually no value, training and breeding facilities will close with all of their employees unemployed, tack companies and feed stores will go out of business with more loss of employment. It will also hurt charities because all of our horse shows help different charities. **As a Realtor, I can assure you that property values will be greatly decreased if these facilities close. This is just the tip of the iceberg as the trickle down would affect many more than just these.**

Therefore, I urge the committee to reject H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Sincerely  
Tanya Strickland

11-8-2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce:  
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: David Keatts, Oak Crest Stables, Gretna, Va.

From: Your Name & Organization  
Re:(PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406)

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is David Keatts, I own a small stable in Central Virginia and we show Performance Tennessee Walking Horses. We have owned this barn since the 1970's and have shown since that time. I am concerned about the H.R. 1518/S.1406 Bill also known as the PAST Act. I believe this bill would destroy the Performance Walking horse industry and would put lots of people out of business and would affect the economy of several southern states. I believe the Current Horse Protection Act of 1970 is sufficient with the current regulations enforced by the USDA. This is a family business and it not only creates jobs and entertainment in the southeast, but it affects

Sincerely,  
David Alan Keatts

November 6, 2013  
10:46 (CST)

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Grant Holt, Walking Horse owner, breeder, trainer, and exhibitor for over thirty years.

Re: H.R. 1518/S. 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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If this legislation is passed, it will have far-reaching devastating effects economically – the horses will be of virtually no value, training and breeding facilities will close with all of their employees unemployed, tack companies and feed stores will go out of business with more loss of employment. As a Broker/Realtor, I can assure you that property values will be greatly decreased if these facilities close. This is just the tip of the iceberg as the trickle down would affect many more than just these.

Therefore, I urge the committee to reject H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Southwest Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association  
P O Box 940  
Rockwall, TX 75087

November 5, 2013  
10:35am

House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Commerce Manufacturing and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

Re: HR1518/S1406 – Known as the P.A.S. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am the current President of the Southwest Walking Horse and Breeders Association in Dallas, Texas. I am writing this letter in regards to the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act.

As an owner of 11 Tennessee Walking Horses which are shown from the padded performance division to the trail pleasure division, I consider myself as well as families involvement to be crucial. I have served on various boards throughout Texas as well as being on the Executive Committee for the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association from 2007 – 2012 and am currently the Texas Director. I also own one American Saddlebred which is in training and shown as well.

Our Texas Association has been involved with the Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking and Spotted Saddle Horses for over 25 years. We put on over twelve shows per year which offer classes for all three breeds as well as showing with the American Saddlebred Horses over the years.

This Bill as currently written does not address the issue that we all are concerned with of soring. This bill does quite the opposite by eliminating ALL shoes for the three breeds, pads unless for therapeutic purpose and any action devise. First off, a shoe, pad nor chains have been scientifically proven too sore a horse. If a shoe sores a horse, than why is it breed specific and not affecting all breeds such as Saddlebreds, Arabians and Morgan horses which are allowed to wear a heavy shoe as well as pads and are not considered sore. Most are worked with a chain at home and again not sore. In my opinion, soring is done by a human being, not by a shoe, pad nor chain.

When we had Lance Armstrong convicted of doping, did they stop cycling events? When the eleven baseball players were caught taking steroids this year, did they stop pro baseball? When football players are caught cheating did they stopped football? The answer is no. You suspend the person, not shut down an entire industry. We need the USDA and the various HIO'S to come together

working toward scientific evidence in the inspection process and not the subjectivity inspection system we have now.

I would therefore urge the committees to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Margo Urad

President , Southwest Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association



To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Susan Landers, member Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association

Re: H.R. 1518/S. 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am opposed to H.R. 1518/S. 1406 (aka the PAST Act). In my opinion, this bill is unnecessary as the Horse Protection Act has been successful in eliminating the practice of "soring" in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

Statistics from USDA/APHIS show that we have a compliance rate of over 98%, which is fantastic by anyone's standards. We continue to self-regulate in the attempt to reach complete compliance. Also, this proposed legislation is breed specific (Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses and Spotted Saddle Horses.) There are several other breeds of horses that use the same type shoeing and action devices that this legislation wants to eliminate. If this legislation is passed, it will have far-reaching devastating effects economically – the horses will be of virtually no value, training and breeding facilities will close with all of their employees unemployed, tack companies and feed stores will go out of business with more loss of employment. This is just the tip of the iceberg as the trickle down would affect many more than just these. Therefore, I urge the committee to reject H.R. 1518/S 1406, also known as the P.A.S.T. Act.

Thank you for your time,  
Susan Landers  
Member TWHBEA

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce:  
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Kerrie Gillilan, Owner/Exhibiter of Tennessee Walking/ Racking/ Spotted  
Saddle Horses  
Re: HR1518/S1406 also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

As a proud owner and exhibiter of all three breeds of horses listed in these bills I strongly oppose any amendments to the current Horse Protection Act. I have many reasons, with facts to support them, as well as personal experience.

(1). This is breed specific in that it only applies to three breeds of gaited horses when there are many gaited breeds not listed that use the same equipment listed. I.E. American Saddlebred, Arabian, Morgan, and Hackney Pony.

re: WhiteHouse.gov: "We don't support breed-specific legislation-research shows that bans on certain types of animals are largely ineffective and often a waste of public resources."

(2). This bill targets horses that are already subjected to the most vigorous inspection processes of any breed. I.E. Palpation, Thermal Scans, X-Ray, Swabbing, and soon Eye Scanning. Inspections done by USDA trained inspectors.

(3). These horses have a 98% compliance rate with the Horse Protection Act.

re: [acisearch.aphis.usda.gov](http://acisearch.aphis.usda.gov)

(4). This bill would take away ALL shoes of any kind from these three breeds only. The only shoes these breeds will be allowed are those prescribed by a vet a therapeutic. Therefore if I shoe my trail horse with plain keg shoes I will be in violation of Federal Law!

re: Whitfield Bill "(13)The use of the weighted shoe, pad, wedge, hoof band, or other device or material at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction that--'(A) is placed on, inserted in, or attached to an limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse, a Racking Horse, or a Spotted Saddle Horse; '(B) is constructed to artificially alter the gait of such a horse; and '(C) is not strictly protective of therepeutic in nature."

(5). Auburn University Veterinarians have done studies that show the pads nor action devices cause "soring", therefore the bills statement that it is to "end all soring" is deceptive.

re: [www.ahdf.org](http://www.ahdf.org)

(6). The writer of the bill "Whitfield"'s wife is on the payroll of HSUS creating a major conflict of interest for him to introduce a bill being pushed by the HSUS.

(7). Charities will be deeply impacted by the loss of the performance horse, the Gulf Coast Charity Horse Show in Panama City Beach, Florida, a 3 day event, alone has raised more than \$755,000 in charitable contributions.

re: <http://m.panamacity.com/entertainment/news/horsing-around-charity->

show-returns-for-15th-year-1.133176/

(8). Hundreds of breeders will be left with animals they have their livelihood invested in and no market to sell to.

(9). Further economic impact would be devastating by reducing or eliminating thousands of jobs ranging from farriers and feed stores to hotels and restaurants that all recieve a boost in business when a show come to their town.

Thank you for reading my reasons for asking you to vote NO on HR1518/S1406.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Gillilan

Registered and Active Voter

Nov 5, 2013 8:00pm

To:House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From:Tyler Baucom

**PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing about this bill HR 1518/s.1406. I am 19 years old and have been helping my father train horses all my life. I am now a Professional Trainer, I ask you to help me save our family business and my future. This Bill will put me out of business, this has been my dream since I was 5 to train horses, its all I know, its my life my heart.

At this years Celebration in Shelbyville the first night I won 5 World Champions, and on the last friday night I had the honor of winning the **YOUNG TRAINER WORLD GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP**. We showed about 30 horses at this show, our horses went through more inspections, X-ray, eye exams, blood work, swab test all these inspections was done by THE USDA and the DQPs that work for our shows to make sure that our horses are not mistreated, all of our horses passed each and every inspection. That should be enough proof that you should know the chains 6oz (my watch weights more) and pads that are (plastic) does not harm these horses in any way at all. I ask you to help all of us keep our jobs more than 13,000 people will be without a job. ONLY because so many people listen to the lies from the HSUS AND REPORTERS.

Thank You,

Tyler Baucom

Nov 5, 2013 8:00pm

To:House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Rhonda Baucom

**PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am asking for your help. I am a Tennessee Walking Horse, Trainer. I just wanted to write and give you some background of how this bill ( **PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406**) if passed will affect my family. If this bill passes my family will be out of jobs. My husband is in need of a kidney transplant, without our horses we will not be able to afford insurance, feed our children, send our children to college and much more.

If this bill is passed there will be some 12,000 people without jobs, this will be a huge financial impact on farms and small business roughly 4,000,000,000. Not only will we as trainers, owner of small businesses lose but, 350,000 in charitable donations will be lost.

I think if all of our people in office was educated on the TWH they would see that this business is not what the public/reporters say it is. I invite you to call me, come visit and ask any questions you have before you are the one that puts all these people out of business.[\(704-840-7571\)](tel:704-840-7571) Thank you for your time.

Thank You,

Rhonda Baucom

Date, Time: 11/8/13, 12:42pm

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Julie Smith

Re: PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am a proud Walking Horse supporter. The walking horse industry isn't just a way for someone to only make money, but as for me and my family it was a way of bringing us together. To many times now a days, our families are torn apart for numerous of reasons, so why take something away that gathers not just my family together for fellowship but many others as well?

Now as for our community, the walking horse industry plays a huge part in not only financially supporting the community but it also plays a part in keeping students off the streets and getting into trouble during those active times.

There are some who do wrong within the Walking Horse industry and they should be punished for any crimes in which they commit; however, the rest of the community should not have to suffer for those wrong doers. Please take all of this into consideration and let us keep what is most dear to our hearts.

Sincerely,

Julie Smith

November 8, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My Name is Karen Stewart and I respectfully submit this letter in support of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breed.

As a child, my mother introduced me to this breed. We would attend most of the shows on our "Circuit". The environment was family oriented and I made many friendships, which have lasted a lifetime not to mention the memories I carry with me to this day. I have also established many business relationships who have, in the past, and continue to further my career. In my pre-teen years, my parents purchased my first "show horse". He was competitive, but certainly not a "Champion".

I learned valuable life lessons during this time. Because we lived on a farm and owned our own training facility, I had the additional responsibility of helping at the barn and caring for these animals. During the summer, while most of my classmates vacationed, I was up at dawn feeding horses and cleaning stalls. There is no way to describe what an impact this made on my work ethic today. I learned that one must work hard and persevere to achieve excellence. I also learned the valuable lesson of sportsmanship. When I did not win, I was taught to accept defeat with a smile and be supportive of my friend who did win. When I won, I was taught to do so graciously and encourage my competitors in their loss.

The economic impact of this breed on the U.S. economy: According to the USDA in their 2010 report on the Tennessee Equine Industry, The Tennessee Walking Horse Breed is ranked # 1 in the state and Tennessee Equine is ranked # 11 nationally. Here is an excerpt from their report with data:

***"Tennessee's equine industry supports a variety of activities and businesses. Based on a 2003 survey, the estimated direct annual economic impacts for total industry output for Tennessee equine ownership expenditures were \$715.3 million (2010\$). This level of expenditures financed over 14,500 jobs. Total value added and indirect business taxes were estimated at \$360.3 million and \$28.9 million, respectively. Total impacts to the state's economy from equine expenditures were estimated at \$1,396.3 million in total industry output. Estimated total number of jobs was over 20,000, with total value added estimated at over \$746.0 million. Indirect business taxes from equine expenditures were estimated at \$61.2 million. Using equine event/show survey expenditures from a 2006 Alabama survey, the direct economic impacts for equine shows/events for***

***Tennessee were estimated at \$22.0 million for total industry output (2010\$) with total impacts estimated at \$45.3 million.”***

These figures are certainly noteworthy given the debt and jobless rate in our country. According to the BLS (August 2013) the unemployment rate in TN was 8.5% and the state ranked in the top ten of the highest in the country. Given the fact that the equine industry employs a number equal to an amount somewhere between 5 & 10 % (of which the TN Walking Horse Industry is the leader) of the number of un-employed persons, that is a significant amount to add to the rolls. Another factor to consider is how this industry benefits others. While the \$45.3 million certainly generates tax revenue and generates jobs, it has a lasting impact on individual lives. Most shows on a local level use the proceeds to help individuals or charities in the area. I can certainly attest to this as my grandson was one of the recipients of such goodwill this past summer. In need of a Kidney Transplant, a show was held for his benefit along with another person in need. The proceeds went towards their medical funds, which were enormous.

And finally, what I personally feel is the most compelling argument, are the rights given to us by our Declaration of Independence

***“We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of **life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness**”***

As a nation, we seem to be moving towards the denial of rights to certain individuals or groups who actions do not align with others. As a profound lover of all animals, I certainly do not endorse inhumane treatment to be a part of my right to pursue happiness. However, having grown up in this industry and knowing a great number of people involved in it, I can truly attest that the abuse is an exception rather than the rule. Yet we want to obliterate the whole to punish the few. As our liberties are being chipped away at one by one, I implore you to look at your own interest and think about which of those are next on the list to be eradicated.

I certainly support the ethical treatment of all animals. However, I do believe that the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry is worthy of praise in how far they have come in “cleaning up” their performance horse and support them 100%. I would encourage and ask you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Karen J Stewart



From: Maria Bobo Tennessee Walking Horse Association

Re: PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maria Bobo and I am a member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Association. I have shown performance show horse for the past 21 years. The performance show horse is the heart of the Walking Horse industry.

The PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406 would be detrimental to the Walking Horse industry and I ask that you oppose this bill.

- The elimination of pads and chains would erase an entire sport and level of competition among an industry and eventually erase the show horse of the walking horse breed.
- It has been proven that performance horses are not harmed by wearing pads or chains. Performance horses only wear chains during training and showing. Furthermore, majority of performance horses have their pads removed during the winter months.
- The current inspections that are enforced with the Horse Protection Act and are aligned with Government inspections, have proven to be extremely effective, with this year's shows and our current World Championship show continually having over a 98% compliance rate.
- The horse shows that are held around the country are mostly charity based or benefit individuals who are battling serious illnesses. This alone should be a testament of the benefits that surround the industry. However, I can say that the Walking Horse Industry supports many others facets of life.
- I have volunteered at many horseshows and have been fortunate enough to meet wonderful people who have encouraged me and financially supported me through my college education. It is through the generosity of this industry that I was able to attend college and obtain a career. Not only has the industry supported me at a individual level, but it has also supported my hometown Shelbyville, TN.
- The people who own performance show horses are the reason why businesses in Shelbyville thrive.

Without the industry and its supporters Shelbyville, Tennessee would suffer greatly. Hundreds of people depend on the Walking Horse industry to provide

employment, revenue, donations, and scholarships. I hope that you will consider the lives that will be devastated, financially and personally.

I hope you will also take into consideration how this would affective the value of Walking horses and the lack of use for those horses. I would ask that you please OPPOSE the HR 1518 PAST Act Bill and SUPPORT our Walking Horse Industry.

Sincerely,

Maria Bobo

11-8-2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce:  
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: David Keatts, Oak Crest Stables, Gretna, Va.

Re: PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is David Keatts, I own a small stable in Central Virginia and we show Performance Tennessee Walking Horses. We have owned this barn since the 1970's and have shown since that time. I am concerned about the H.R. 1518/S.1406 Bill also known as the PAST Act. I believe this bill would destroy the Performance Walking horse industry and would put lots of people out of business and would affect the economy of several southern states. I believe the Current Horse Protection Act of 1970 is sufficient with the current regulations enforced by the USDA. This is a family business and it not only creates jobs and entertainment in the southeast, but it affects

Sincerely,  
David Alan Keatts

November 6, 2013

House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

Susan A. Peters

Tennessee Walking Horse Owner, NCWHA Member, Show Enthusiast

Re: PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I writing today on behalf of not only myself, but an industry of close knit people that I consider to be my extended family. I am a show horse enthusiast, and I have owned show horses for many years. The Bill in question HR 1518/ S. 1406 is causing strife within the Walking Horse Industry. I **oppose** the passing of this Bill or anything like it. It not only takes away my right to choose how I shoe my horses and show them, it would negate many people's way of living.

The Bill as it is written is restrictive, and provides no options for the Industry as we know it currently. All shows will cease to exist within the current parameters, as all horses would be required to be shod the same. The way the Bill is written would require all horses to be shod with a non-weighted shoe. This would in essence make all horses equal as far as showing goes. Thus there would be no reason for the delineation of classes. Doing away with horse shows would have a ripple effect. Trainers would be without jobs, shows would be out of business. Many charities would lose donations. Not to mention, the money that is pulled in by many cities and small towns as a side effect of the shows that pull in spectators and show attendees. I do not have exact figures to give you, but I do know the amounts of money pulled in each year alone by the annual Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee is staggering and contributes a lot to that county's economy. Not to mention the other shows held there every year. If this Bill passes, all of that money goes away. Do we need more people without jobs? Do we need more cities and towns with failing economies?

I propose we continue on the path we have been on. We continue with stringent DQP checking at shows to ensure compliance from people showing their horses.

We continue to hold ourselves accountable, we continue to brainstorm and come up with to date procedures to keep the industry on the right track. We have improved with leaps and bounds, our compliance rates get better and better each year. Please do not take our show horse away from us.

Please **OPPOSE** this Bill! Do not take away the right to let owners choose how we want to show our animals and shoe them. Don't do away with an industry that has been around for so long... please give our horse a chance. I enjoy showing my horses, please let me have to opportunity to continue to do so how I wish to.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Peters

**Date: November 13, 2013**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**To: House Subcommittee on Energy, Manufacturing, and Trade  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry**

**From: Debby Myers**

**P.O. Box 854**

**Rockwall, Texas 75087**

**Re: H.R. 1518 and S 1406 (PAST Act)**

**Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:**

**I am a concerned citizen who has been employed with an animal health company for 30 plus years. From the time I left college with a degree in Animal Science, my livelihood and life have been focused on protecting animals and ensuring their welfare. Neither H.R. 1518 or SB 1406 will play any role in protecting horses. In fact, these bills will devalue show animals and will diminish the amount of care they will receive.**

**Four generations of my family have loved and shown Tennessee Walking Horses in competition. My 75+ year old dad forced himself to live another week and then another week just for the chance to show his beloved horse against competitors in a show ring. Both my daughter and I have learned many of life's lessons at an early age from horseshow competition. It is difficult to imagine that the freedom that we, as middleclass Americans, have to show our horses and participate in a family hobby could be removed by our own Congress. I hope the testimony here today will prevent you from being misled and/or manipulated by HSUS whose goal is to create a fund raising opportunity based on half truths about the rubber pads and six ounce bracelets our horses wear.**

**As someone who cares deeply for horses, I can tell you that this legislation will not prevent soring of horses. The plastic pads and six ounce bracelets that our horses wear have nothing to do with the soring abuses that were common a few years ago. The good news is that Industry Inspectors are already preventing abuse, and no additional government involvement is**

needed. No breed of horse or human athlete has to meet as tough a standard as the Tennessee Walking Horse does to prove that they are sound, fit, and healthy enough to show. Every horse is screened visually and must stand to have their legs and ankles palpated by trained inspectors prior to competing. Winners are re-inspected following their class. A horse that won't stand completely quiet and without motion to have their ankles palpated by an inspector is assumed to be 'sore' and that assumption lands their rider, trainer, owner, groom, and transporter a suspension of one year. Many of our trainers from the past have been forced out of business by these tough standards. Any of your Committee Members are invited to come to our events and to visit barns firsthand to see for yourselves that the Horse Protection Act is being strictly and robustly enforced. Compliance rates are now 98% and above regardless of whether the Industry Inspectors or USDA Inspectors check our horses.

This legislation will destroy the commerce associated with the Tennessee Walking Horse Show horse and do nothing to further protect our horses. Without our action devices and rubber/plastic pads, our horses will not have the showring appeal, and we will not attract audiences or participants. It will kill jobs and cause many of our horses to be devalued. Horses not fit for the showring will become destined to a life of sub-standard nutrition and health care.

Therefore, I urge the committee to give no support to H.R. 1518/S.B. 1406 in any form.

Thank you,

Debby Myers

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Darren Gilliam, and I strongly oppose the PAST ACT 1518. This bill is intended to harm a lot of peoples lives by eliminating jobs, weekend enjoyments, and will hurt their economic impact in their communities. I feel that if this bill is passed it will hurt a lot of businesses also, the ones that's already struggling, but are managing to survive. This bill is a conflict of interest by Mr. Whitfield, his wife has a part in the HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES. They have harassed the Tennessee Walking Horse industry for years when the USDA say we are 98% compliance. To me that's a big accompaniments!

I started riding Tennessee Walking Horses and showing them at the age of 13. I'm a big sports guy and I played sports at a young age. It was at the age of 13 I learned I had a heart problem that put a stop to my sports. The doctors told me I couldn't play sports anymore, that's when I developed a love for the TWH. From my first time riding a performance TWH, I knew I was hooked. That helped ease the pain of learning I couldn't play sports. I'm currently 28 year old, and have shown for 15 years! If it wasn't from showing the horses I love I honestly don't know if I would still be here. When I was in high school, I was bullied, I hated it. I was a honors student. Everyday I would rush home to study, and then I would go ride my performance TWH, it made me feel like I was on top of the world. I knew my horses cared for me. I would ride for hours, and tell them all my troubles from school and how depressed I had gotten because of being bullied. Everyday I would ride I gained confidence that everything would be ok. I didn't have many friends, only friends I could call my own was horse show friends and they made me happy. They are the most respected and kind people I ever met. During this time I knew I had found me something to help me when I was down and out and knew my horses would always be there and that I had made friends for life at the horse shows. To this day I still don't know where I would be without horse shows and my horse show family. Please oppose this bill that would kill the horse shows that we all love, it would mean so much to me!

Thank You So Much,

Darren Gilliam



November 13, 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Manufacturing and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Carolyn Brinegar  
Bluegrass Pleasure and Walking Horse Association  
Tennessee Walking Horse Grass Roots Organization

Re: H.R. 1518/S.1406

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As an actively voting resident of the State of Kentucky and a walking horse industry stakeholder, this is to request that each of you vote NO to the deceptive proposed action noted above. It was written and introduced by an individual who was elected to represent the interests of his Kentucky constituents and is apparent that the Humane Society of the United States, through a close family member of this Congressman, has been the main author of the language of the proposed bill. In allowing this, said representative is definitely not pursuing the mandate of his constituents nor protecting their interests because:

H.R.1518/S.1406 would remove all pads, weighted shoes and action devices from show horses of three SPECIFIED BREEDS...the Tennessee Walking Horse, the Racking Horse and the Spotted Saddle Horse. This, in effect, would eliminate a whole division of show horses within three industries and result, most likely, in the extinction of the whole breed in the coming years. The devastating economical impact-just in Kentucky which is being ill served by this elected official in this case-would be astronomical. To wit, the Lane Report published an article in its issue dated August 6, 2013 that stated "Farm Receipts top \$5.2 billion, but University of Kentucky economists say overall Ag Industry is \$34 billion. Tennessee Walking Horses contribute a substantial amount to this industry revenue since:

The Kentucky Horse Council presented its "Kentucky Equine Survey- Initial Findings All Breed conducted June-October 2012" and disclosed that Kentucky is home to 242,000 horses and the total value of the State's EQUINE and EQUINE RELATED assets is estimated at \$23.4 billion! Tennessee Walking Horses are the THIRD most prevalent breed in the state behind the signature Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse breeds.

The above facts relate to Kentucky, but the numbers must be multiplied by the

pertinent figures which would impact EVERY state based on its walking horse population. This impact would have epic devastating effects to the farriers, veterinarians, feed and tack companies, truck and trailer dealers and many other satellite businesses. The jobs of thousands employed by the industries would disappear, adding to an nationwide economy already struggling. Also to be considered is the loss of tax revenues and the effect on the many charities the Tennessee Walking Horse supports.

What makes even the consideration of this proposed legislation so puzzling is the total lack of necessity it represents. The Horse Protection Act already contains strong rules and regulations governing the showing of these horses..the most stringent of any equine breed in existence. Piling on more regulations and rules will only result in taxpayer dollars being uselessly wasted; the USDA has published on its website recently that the HPA program it administers shows a 99.64% compliance rate for the industry and it should be noted that the program is self-funded by the walking horse industry. Should this alone not show that the Tennessee Walking Horse does not need the questionable fund-raising attention of the HSUS?

The excellent rate of compliance with the HPA rules and regulations, the economy the breed supports and the documented scientific proof that the equipment and shoeing methods used do not harm our horse only emphasize the deceptive language and anti-animal agenda of this proposed legislation. It deserves a NO response on all fronts. Our horses deserve a better future than the abandonment and/or open slaughter house doors that this bill would bring. The citizens of each of your states, already assailed with ill-thought regulations deserve better representation.

November 8, 2013 2:42pm

House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

Attn: Chairman Representative Lee Terry

Gail Whitfield – Concerned Horse Owner

RE: House Bill #H. R. 1518/S 1406 - P.A.S.T. Act

**PLEASE educate yourself about this bill and the tactics of the HSUS.**

It is very obvious that anyone who will support this bill does not care about the welfare of any horse, or any other animal. The **Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)** only uses this sort of tactic as a way of raising money to pay lobbyists to afford them the high end salaries and benefits. This organization gives less than 1% of the large contributions back to animal shelters; therefore, it is obvious their motives have nothing to do with animal welfare. Please tell me how this type of activity affords them a 990 status? You are aware that Ed Whitfield-KY who has sponsored this bill is married to Connie Harriman who is the Senior Policy Advisor for the HSUS. Is that not a blatant conflict of interest? You have been misinformed if you think this bill has anything to do with stopping animal cruelty, it will only promote it.

Eliminating our successful HIO system would be a big mistake. We already have stringent penalties in place and violations that are taken immediately. There is no way the UDSA could inspect all horse shows, nor could there be enough money allocated to carry out this type of program. It would cost the American taxpayer millions. I do not think the American taxpayer could understand how more money is spent on an equine program versus the food inspection program, especially when there is a very successful program already in place for our equines.

There is not any study done that proves the use of weighted shoes, pads, and action devices harm horses, and **how** can it just harm a couple of breeds and not ALL breeds. A horse is a horse so how can you consider eliminating this for a couple of breeds and not for all equines, how can you lawfully be prejudice?

Once our breed is out of business they will just move onto another breed. You all should be aware of the money that the equine industry brings to our economy, not to mention the jobs of the very individuals who support all breeds: such as farmers, vets, farriers, owners, and a lot of small businesses. Our country does not need to lose any more jobs. Therefore, I urge the committees to oppose HR1518.

I have had the honor to own and show this magnificent breed for about 35 years now, and I have never seen the training practices that the **HSUS** describes. Our horses go through the most stringent inspections ever of ANY breed, and I am glad to see our DQP program rid our industry of the few that do not follow protocol. **If this bill passes, these inspections will not be done at all the horse shows** and that will definitely be a 60 year step backwards for this breed, and all the hard work that has been done will be lost. You and every other person who has signed onto this bill should attend one of our shows and watch our horses go through the DQP inspections. I am certain you will be impressed with our programs and with our great breed of horse. All of our shows raise money solely for the benefit of various charities, mostly for children charities, and the **HSUS** tactics have reduced the contributions that we have been able to give to the handicapped individuals across the country.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Gail Whitfield

Date: 9 November 2013

Time: 1300

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Joseph Manos, President, Tennessee Pleasure Saddle Horse Association

Re: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am a lifetime owner, breeder and exhibitor of the Tennessee Walking Horse, the Racking Horse, the Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse, the Spotted Saddle Horse, the Paso Fino Horse, and the 5 gaited American Saddlebred.

It is because of my 45 years of versatile and diverse associations with all of these gaited breeds that I am in total opposition to the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406. This bill would seriously undermine the economy of the gaited horse world in general and mine in specific.

Let me first state that I am against soring or any other abuse of animals. However, this bill does nothing to address that issue. The Auburn study shows that pads and action devices alone do not sore a horse. It is the addition of caustic agents that cause soring.

It is glaringly obvious that there are those that want to eliminate pads and action devices from the show ring but their ambitions are misplaced. The mission should be the continued monitoring and governing under the guidelines of the Horse Protection Act of the USDA.

Throwing the baby out with the bath water has never been a good practice and this bill is another that attempts to do just that. As with any law or bill, there will never be 100% compliance but those that choose to show and train with pads and action devices are far more compliant than most other areas under the USDA. I would point to the production of milk as a prime example.

I conclude by urging the committee to pause and reflect on the damage that this bill will ultimately do. Please don't be blinded by the loud voices of the very vocal activist minority that have an agenda other than the welfare of horses. Vote against the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406.

Thanks for your time,

Joseph Manos  
President  
TPSA

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing,  
and Trade  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Todd, Owner/Operator  
Re: HR1518/S1406 also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My wife and I own and operate a Tennessee Walking Horse Breeding Farm. We are breeders, owners and exhibitors of Tennessee Walking Horses (TWH). This missive is to speak to HR1518/S1406 also known as the P.A.S.T. Act. We are lifetime members of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA). I would respectfully ask that you vote NO on this bill.

This bill as it is written will have a very detrimental effect on our livelihood. I list the following reasons:

This bill is being misrepresented by Whitfield and Cohen and HSUS as being about stopping "soring" in the TWH industry, and has no basis in scientific fact. There are several reasons why this is a BAD PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

- 1.) This is Breed Specific calling for an end to equipment used specifically by Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses only. The equipment that is called out in this legislation is equipment that is used by many other breeds including, American Saddle Bred, Arabian, Morgan and Hackney Ponies.
- 2.) This legislation will remove ALL SHOES OF ANY KIND from these 3 breeds only! The only shoes that these breeds will be allowed are those prescribed by a vet as therapeutic. Thus, if we shoe our trail horses with plain keg shoes; the same shoes worn by all other breeds for trail and light use we will be in violation of a federal law.
- 3.) This will cost millions to implement and enforce; in addition to costing thousands of jobs here in Alabama, and across the nation.
- 5.) The economic impact will be devastating for the state of Alabama and the nation. Between the Racking Horse Celebration and the Alabama Jubilee held

here in Alabama have a more than \$12 million impact alone. Just in my yearly feed bill my feed suppliers will loss \$10,000 if I stop breeding and liquidate my stock. That does not include taxes to the cities, counties and state. And the loss of sales to the feed stores, COOPs, Farmers, trailer sales and tack stores.

6.) The value of the livestock that we have on our farm and all other breeders will be basically cut to zero, with no compensation.

There is sufficient legislation in place; the HPA already addresses the issue of abuse within the breed. The HPA as it is currently written provides for adequate supervision of the breed. The USDA reported in 2012 that the industry has inspected 520,750 horses over the previous six years at NO COST to the tax payer. The poorly constructed new legislation being introduced, does not address the issue of “soring” nor does it offer any sustainable funding to enforce the proposed bills. In addition I feel like this legislation is a direct slap in the face of the USDA stating that they are not capable of enforcing the HPA as written. From the USDA’s own reports they state that the TWH has a compliance rate to the HPA of over 98%. This compliance rating is far higher that many of the food processing plans have meet over the same time period.

Therefore we ask that the Committee to reject HR1518/S1406.

Sincerely

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Todd

Hazel Green, Alabama



November 8, 2013

From Dr. Pam Hendrickson.

Re: H.R.1518/S1406 P.A.S.T. Act.

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

I am a member of the T.W.H.B.E.A., a member of the A.V.M.A. and A.A.E.P. and a practicing veterinarian and proud owner and exhibitor of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

I am strongly opposed to any amendments to the current Horse Protection Act. The Tennessee Walking Horse is under greater scrutiny and more stringent inspection processes than any other breed of horse including the Thoroughbred race horse.

This is breed specific legislation promoted by the Humane Society of the United States and H.S.U.S. should not be involved in livestock commerce decisions made by legislators and the U.S.D.A.

This type of legislative action restricts the Tennessee Walking Horse, the Spotted Saddle Horse, and the Racking Horse from wearing "weighted" shoes. All shoes are weighted. Other breeds of horses have many shoe types and shoe weight variations without any form of restriction based on sound farrier and veterinary based trials.

This amendment will remove approximately 85% of the current "show" horse classes in the above listed breeds and will cause a devastating economic impact to every aspect of the above listed breed industries. I would invite members of the A.V.M.A. and A.A.E.P., the American Horse Council and members of congress to actively visit and review training barns, horse shows and inspections, and farriers actively shoeing these horses before making decisions about these breeds based on biased activist group impressions made without sound observation.

I hope that you will consider supporting my position in opposing HR1518/S1406.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Pam Hendrickson

Statement of the Performance Show Horse Association  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Commerce and Trade  
November 13, 2013

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Chairman Terry, Ranking Member Schakowsky and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Performance Show Horse Association appreciates the opportunity to provide a statement regarding H.R. 1518 and the negative impacts this legislation would have on the Tennessee Walking Horse industry and the communities and families that work in and depend on this industry.

The Performance Show Horse Association is a multi-state organization representing walking horse shows, trainers, owners, breeders and other long-time participants in the walking horse industry. Our organization was established to bring about, through the industry, needed reforms that will restore the credibility and integrity of our sport and, at the same time, ensure that those few people who have created a negative perception of our industry are removed. Our goals are to bring common-sense and realistic reforms that will protect the horse and save the industry.

The entire equine world is built on the beauty of the horse, its abilities and the desire of its owners to show, exhibit, and compete to win. By and large, the Tennessee Walking Horse industry stems from a family-based hobby for most owners who love this breed of horse and enjoy the community, tradition and competition the horse show industry provides. The Tennessee Walking Horse is an extremely gentle and docile breed which allows amateur riders of all ages to participate and enjoy this sport. In fact, at this year's world championship horse show, the youngest rider competing was 4 years of age, with the most "elite" rider winning a championship at age 96. This industry is certainly not about making its participants rich. The average prize for a typical Saturday night horse show is \$75 per class with an entry fee averaging \$40 per class.

And why is this legislation and the severe economic impacts associated with it being proposed? Because the Humane Society of the United States has an agenda to eliminate the horse as a farm and sport animal. They have an agenda to eliminate the horse from all competitive arenas. Their goal is to make the horse a companion animal. Make no mistake - this is a HSUS bill. The connection between Mr. Whitfield and the HSUS is irrefutable - his wife is a paid lobbyist for the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:**

This legislation, if passed, could and would most likely be the death knell of our industry. The Tennessee Walking Horse industry has been hard-hit by the poor economic conditions of the last few years as well as much more aggressive and retaliatory inspection and oversight activities by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 2000, there were over 80,000 show horses; today there are approximately 15,000. The very foundation of the Tennessee Walking Horse sport would be decimated. The Celebration, our World Grand Championship, which is akin to the Thoroughbred Industry's Kentucky Derby or the American Saddlebred's Worlds' Championship Horse Show at the Kentucky State Fair, has had a decline of 50% of

horses competing in the last 5 years. And the economic impact to this Industry and associated supporting farmers, small businesses and untold employees would be staggering as there are over 20,640 direct and indirect jobs associated with the Tennessee Walking Horse and show horse industry across the country as identified by the USDA's report in 2012. (See Attached Economic Report – Exhibit A).

### **NO FACTUAL SUPPORT FOR ELIMINATION OF WEIGHTED SHOES AND ACTION DEVICES:**

One of the changes called for in the proposed Whitfield/HSUS bill is the elimination of all “weighted” shoes for Tennessee Walking Horses. It is indisputable that this provision alone would eliminate approximately 85% of the show and performance horses as outlined in the attached list of “weighted” shoes and associated number of horses. The attached exhibit shows that at sanctioned horse shows, approximately 85% of the classes allowed for participation require a weighted shoe and, under this legislation, those classes and corresponding horses would be eliminated. (Exhibit B attached).

The stated reason for eliminating 85% of the Industry show horses is the allegations that “all horses are sore.” This incorrect statement is continually reinforced by using undocumented and inaccurate inflammatory language that “rampant soring continues”, and there is “massive abuse” in the industry.

It even appears that the legislation's authors have been able to convince 2 professional organizations, the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the American Veterinary Medicine Association, to make an inaccurate statement with no basis in fact that “because the inhumane practice of soring Tennessee Walking Horses has continued and because the industry has been **unable to make substantial progress** in eliminating this abusive practice, the AVMA and the AAEP believe a ban on action devices and performance packages is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the horse.” (Emphasis added).

These organizations have stated publically that “there is little scientific evidence to indicate that the use of action devices below a certain weight are detrimental to the health and welfare of the horse...” (AAEP/AVMA joint statement June 14, 2012). As professional organizations, it is surprising that they support legislation that completely disregards their own public statements and the only comprehensive scientific study that has been performed, the “Auburn Study” (Attached as Exhibit C), that documented that the pad and action device utilized today and recognized in current regulations do not cause harm to the horse.

Additionally, the motivations and professional integrity of these organizations must be called in to question as they seek to eliminate the Tennessee Walking Horse industry while remaining strangely quiet about the abuses and deaths that occur on a daily basis within the Thoroughbred Industry. In the period of 2009-2011, over 3000 thoroughbred horses died as a result of racing or the training connected to racing. In this same time period, ONE Tennessee Walking Horse participating in show events died. (See the attached New York Times article regarding this issue – Exhibit D). Interestingly, the AAEP, regarding a piece of legislation seeking to add more regulation to the racing Industry, encouraged Congress to work with the Horse Racing Industry regarding issues it had, not eliminate it as they are proposing here.

However, these inflammatory and incorrect statements by this legislation's sponsor, the Humane Society of the United States and their supporters are easily countered by FACT. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ("APHIS"), the regulatory agency charged with managing and overseeing the Horse Protection programs, the HPA compliance rate for the HIO-affiliated Tennessee Walking Horse shows was 98.5% over the period 2009-2012. In fact, in the last year, USDA violations at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration decreased by 33%. Those are the facts. Most importantly, these compliance rates are by and large a result of SUBJECTIVE testing methods, subject to human bias and mistakes, rather than science-based OBJECTIVE testing.

We have not been able to find any other Industry, either government-regulated or self-regulated, that is 98.5% compliant using clearly subjective inspection protocols. By way of example, based on publicly reported numbers generated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, its Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) branch reports an approximately 98% compliance rate for 2010 and 2011, using we hope objective inspections as they are dealing with our country's food supply. If the Federal government's own agency is to be believed, and which is in direct contradiction to the misrepresentations of Congressman Whitfield, the Humane Society of United States and their supporters, only a very small percentage of Tennessee Walking Horses are out of compliance with the HPA. We believe, however, that with common-sense and realistic reforms, this number can be further reduced through the industry's proactive reforms and self-regulation.

Proponents of this bill also claim the weighted shoes used by 85% of the Tennessee Walking horses currently competing are used to "hide" abuse. They claim such soring techniques are "regularly used" and have been "documented". However, the only documented instance of "pressure shoeing" in the last four or five years was detected through inspections performed by an HIO inspector – not the USDA. We are unaware of the USDA ever prosecuting any individual for allegations related to "pressure shoeing" abuse despite the hundreds of digital x-rays performed by USDA inspectors over the years.

In fact, veterinarian review (Attached as Exhibit E – Statement of Dr. John Bennett) of the Tennessee Walking Horse credits the use of pads with the decrease in laminitis issues found in competition Tennessee Walking Horses as compared to other competitive breeds. Also, Tennessee Walking Horses regularly compete into mid-teen ages and the World Championship Horse show has a class designated for Classic Horses, which are those 15 years of age and older and in this year's Celebration, 32 Classic horses competed.

#### **THE CURRENT SUBJECTIVE INSPECTION PROCESS:**

As noted, it is extremely important that you as a Member of Congress understand the inspection process and methodology placed upon the industry by APHIS. Under the Horse Protection Act, both Designated Qualified Persons (DQPs), inspecting on behalf of the HIOs, and APHIS inspectors utilize subjective testing methods. Nevertheless, the inspection procedure currently used is one of the most extensive and intrusive used in any agriculture-related inspection.

The subjectivity creates significant inconsistencies, allows for the introduction of personal bias and creates constant problems and conflicts. What other industry goes through a

series of inspection stations by both DQPs and Government VMOs prior to competition and can pass but fail an inspection 30 or 45 minutes later after it competes?

How can consistency be achieved when 2 different USDA inspectors disagreed 26% of the time when inspecting the same horse at the same time? (See Exhibit F – Joy Smith Affidavit) These are consistent and constant problems that can and should be solved. But, again, even with this subjectivity, the industry's horses have a 98.5% compliance rate.

#### **CLAIMS REGARDING “FOREIGN SUBSTANCE” TESTING:**

Another claim made by the sponsor of this legislation and his Humane Society of United States allies is that in one instance of testing, 52 out of 52 horses tested positive for the presence of foreign substances and, therefore, must be sore. Under current regulation and the testing methodologies used by the USDA inspectors, the Department has a zero-tolerance policy. The current testing methods essentially require a horse's foot area to be sterile with the exception of certain lubricants identified in the regulations– despite the fact that the Act only prohibits foreign substances which are intended to alter the gait of the horse or mask the inspection process.

Even a proponent of H.R. 1518 (USEF – United States Equine Federation) has said that “zero-tolerance” is an unacceptable protocol. Numerous experts in the field of mass spectrometry (the technology used by USDA inspectors) agree that, given the current technology and advances since its introduction in 1970, a zero tolerance protocol is unacceptable. The technology has improved exponentially and detection on the level of 1 part per billion is possible.

An additional issue with the Department's Foreign Substance Policy is that they have not developed or identified any type of baseline or tolerance level. They have not established by policy or regulation which “foreign substances, and at what particle level, cause soring. The current “foreign substance” testing returns a “positive” result for any substance present on the horse's foot – including those which common sense would tell you are not intended to alter the horse's gait such as hoof paint, fly spray and other normal equine care products.

Additionally, in 2012, the Walking Horse Trainers' Association instituted a swabbing program aimed at protecting the welfare of the horse and increasing compliance by its member trainers. Both the AAEP and AVMA were approached in face-to-face meetings and through correspondence soliciting the organizations' involvement in development of the swabbing program and participation in its implementation. Neither the AAEP nor the AVMA chose to assist the industry in its efforts to eliminate soring and, instead, issued a statement supporting the ban on pad and action devices which was contradictory to their previous public statements.

Most significantly, however, is the fact that the Department has NEVER brought an HPA violation case against ANYONE for ANY foreign substance violation. This fact shows that even the Department knows that their methodology, protocols, lack of baseline, lack of any independent or peer-reviewed scientific data concerning acceptable or unacceptable foreign substance and process would not stand up under scrutiny in a court of law.

The statements, therefore, by the author of H.R. 1518, the Humane Society of the United States and their supporters that “all horses are sore”, that “rampant soring continues” and that there is “massive abuse” are, quite simply, factually incorrect and not backed up by any fact whatsoever. When an organization is pushing an agenda, the truth is not a concern. For any individual or group to attempt to use these findings as support for their claims that these horses are sore and/or that the shoes and actions devices should be removed is absurd.

#### **ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:**

The Legislative History and records regarding creation of the Horse Protection Act and the amendments in 1976 indicate the clear intent of the legislation was to provide for industry self-regulation that was overseen by and partnered with the Department of Agriculture and APHIS. In fact, the amendments passed in 1976 were a response to the Department’s failure to adequately inspect and Congress’s recognition of the need to create industry inspection methodology through the creation of the Horse Industry Organizations. H.R. 1518 guts the very foundations of the Horse Protection Act and these amendments from 1976, eliminates the self-regulatory mechanics of the bill and turns over to the Department all control, oversight, authority and actions. And yet Congressman Whitfield has stated that “this amendment...does not cost the federal government any additional money.” That statement is false and, in fact, this legislation will cost a great deal if enacted.

First and foremost, the elimination of the HIOs will require ALL tickets written at shows to be adjudicated by the Department as, currently, the HIOs handle that process for the majority of the written tickets. So any ticket written for scar rule, foreign substance detection, soring, etc., must be dealt with by Government staff, attorneys, and support personnel as we certainly would not question Congressman Whitfield’s belief in due process of law. Therefore these violations must be provided that process.

Secondly, the legislation, if enacted, would require additional funding due to the fact that the entire inspection resources of the HIOs will be eliminated and replaced with Government-selected inspectors. The Government, therefore, will have to recruit, manage and schedule for participating shows approximately 100 new Government inspectors. As the Department is currently only able to inspect approximately 6% of HIO-affiliated events, this inspector number would need to be increased accordingly if the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is able to continue its existence as the author of H.R. 1518 claims will be the case.

Despite claims of rampant abuse, from 1982 to 2012, a thirty (30) year period, there were 34 USDA HPA prosecutions which were appealed to a court of appeals and/or judicial officer. Under the proposed legislation, the USDA would be responsible for prosecuting all alleged violations identified by USDA certified inspectors. The USDA’s Program Activity Reports for 2011 indicate 683 violations and in 2012 indicate 582 violations. Based on the USDA’s reports and the allegation that soring is “rampant” and remains undetected, the

USDA will be responsible for the prosecution, and any subsequent appeals, of, at a minimum, hundreds of alleged violations each year.

APHIS has admitted that for the current violations they find from their attendance at 6-8% of the shows they believe that the **investigation** can be completed within 365 days. Also, in a filing in the recent lawsuit, and left undisputed by the DOJ, it was estimated the time lapse between the alleged violation and a decision appealed from the Administrative Law Judge to the Judicial Officer was 49 months. If the accused chose to appeal the Agency decision to an Article III court, the time lapse between the alleged violation and final decision was approximately 70 months. Just these timeframes alone brings into question the viability of this Whitfield/HSUS program to “end soring” since it could be years until a case is prosecuted – if ever.

All expenses associated with DQP training are currently paid for by the HIOs. This includes requirements for an all-day training session EACH year for EVERY inspector, additional sessions for those inspectors who could not attend the initial session, a recurrent session of at least 4 hours EACH year for EACH inspector. It also includes a continuation of the Department’s regulatory requirement of APHIS oversight, monitoring and appraisal of the performance of new inspectors, the apprenticeship requirement of all new inspectors for 2 shows and, as the legislation provides a preference for veterinarians, have a ready schedule of extra inspectors due to professional requirements that conflict with show requirements.

Additionally, regulations require a significant amount of reporting for each show, proper training and actions associated with their enforcement responsibilities and proper consideration and actions related to the provision of due process of law for those charged or ticketed with violating the Horse Protection Act. And since these new inspectors are federal government employees or subcontractors the security currently required by APHIS will need to be extended to every inspector at every show – not an insignificant cost. All of this while taking into account that the majority of the shows occur on the weekends when most busy professionals want and need personal time with their families. ***The cost of all of these items will be the responsibility of the United States government.***

The USDA itself has recognized the significant costs associated with the undertakings proposed by this legislation. During the rulemaking process of adopting the Regulations implementing the industry self-regulation HIO program, the USDA stated the following:

“[comments] suggested that the DQP program should be operated by the Department and the applicants should be trained and licensed directly by the Department. **The Department has neither the personnel nor the funds to carry out such an extensive undertaking and feels that the DQP program should remain in the realm of industry self-regulation.**”

44 Fed. Reg. 1158, 1160 (emphasis added).

- Additionally, as part of the 2011 rulemaking regarding the adoption of mandatory minimum penalties, the USDA stated the following:

“The Act provides us with the authority to pursue civil and criminal penalties against persons who violate the Act. However, **such proceedings may be time-consuming and expensive, and our resources for prosecuting such cases are limited.**”

76 Fed. Reg. 30864, 30865 (May 27, 2011)(emphasis added).

The Office of the Inspector General’s Audit Report of September 2010 also found the following regarding expenses of HPA enforcement:

- Page 113: “Given its limited resources – which APHIS regards as inadequate to send its own veterinarians to the approximately 500 horse shows that are held each year – the agency implemented the program by collaborating with horse industry organizations sponsoring the shows.”
- Page 126: “According to the Horse Protection Act, APHIS employees have the authority to inspect horses and initiate civil proceedings against individuals who are suspected of having abused their horses. Because **these proceedings can be long, expensive, and have unpredictable results, APHIS has structured its enforcement process so that horse industry organizations and DQPs are the primary parties responsible for issuing immediate penalties to individuals for violating the Horse Protection Act.**” (emphasis added).

Even without taking on activities associated with the inspection process as contemplated by this legislation, as recently as January 11, 2012, the USDA recognized the time and expense associated with just the investigation and prosecution of alleged violations. The USDA has already been forced to prioritize its activities based on limited resources while operating under the current HIO program. (Exhibit G -Jan. 11, 2012, corr. from Gregory L. Parham, USDA Administrator). For the proponents of the proposed legislation to assert there would be no additional costs incurred by the USDA in undertaking to perform ALL inspections and prosecutions, including those currently performed through the HIO system, is unfounded.

Congressman Whitfield also stresses the point that the use of these government inspectors, due to elimination of the DQP Program, is voluntary. In the Horse Protection Act amendments passed in 1976, Congress recognized that the Department of Agriculture could not manage and did not have the capabilities to inspect all of the walking horse shows. Congress, therefore, set up the DQP Program. This legislation eliminates that program, establishes a government-selected and managed program and proposes to pass the inspection costs on to the show manager. If a show manager, however, chooses NOT to utilize this government inspector, he or she assumes the risk and personal liability of an HPA violation and the associated criminal or civil liability. We doubt that many show managers, if any, will believe the provisions of H.R. 1518 are “voluntary.”

## **CONCLUSION:**

As we have noted throughout this statement, H.R. 1518 would eliminate approximately 85% of the current Tennessee Walking Horse industry and 85% of the industry’s economic value to the communities and families that make up this industry. It would result in the



unconstitutional taking of over \$1.3 billion in property without just compensation through the elimination of the value of these performance horses. It would result in a negative economic impact of over \$3.2 billion and the loss of thousands of jobs in each of the affected areas.

It would have a significant cost to the Government through the new requirements and tasks that would have to be assumed by the Department of Agriculture. It violates the intent and spirit of the original Horse Protection Act. It seeks to prohibit weighted shoes and action devices that have been found to have no harmful effect under current regulation. It continues an inspection process that is, by definition, unworkable as it utilizes subjective testing and foreign substance policies that are not realistic, defined or scientifically valid.

The Performance Show Horse Association is committed to the elimination of the small minority of people who sore horses for competitive advantage. As the industry has a 98.5% compliance rate, that number is a small minority. But this elimination must occur in a common-sense, realistic manner that recognizes the original intent of the Horse Protection Act by maintaining the HIO system, requiring shows to be a part of that system, by instituting scientifically valid testing protocols and inspection methods, by eliminating the conflicts of interest and, in so doing, show these magnificent animals in a competitive, but safe, manner.

Our industry is not perfect and more work remains. We can say, however, that we have made, and will continue to make, great strides in eliminating the small minority of bad actors in our sport. No other component of the equine industry can say that. Our industry did not have 3,000 horses die in the last four years.

This legislation, if enacted, will destroy the proud and historic Tennessee Walking Horse industry and this Subcommittee, through this and other statements, testimony and reflection will agree with this analysis. We do, however, remain committed to work with Congress, the Department of Agriculture and APHIS and other reasonable people on realistic common-sense reforms and revisions that eliminates the sore horse, not the show horse.

Thank you for your time and attention to this Statement and we appreciate your consideration of this material. We hope that after the consideration of these facts and supporting material, rather than our opponent's continued uses of misinformation and inflammatory language, you will understand and appreciate the progress we have made. But we know more needs to be done and we would encourage the Subcommittee to consider the recommendations we have suggested as they represent a common-sense and realistic approach that can make our industry achieve our goal of protecting our horses and saving our industry.

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10/01/13

From: Kelly Martin Family, Pembroke, KY

Re: Bill HR

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

We oppose bill number for the following reasons:

Our family has been enjoying the Tennessee Walking Horse for nearly 50 years. As a young child of 4 years old I can remember the first time my family made the pilgrimage from just outside Saint Louis, Mo to Shelbyville, TN. At the time we were not showing horses and my dad had a pleasure walking horse that he rode on trail rides in Mo. He had studied the Walking Horse and was determined to see what we now as family truly believe is the "Greatest Show on Earth", the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration.

From 1964 to now, our family has not missed one Celebration. I say that to drive home the point of how much this industry means to us as a family. Years prior to my brother or me showing Walking Horses on the Missouri circuit, we were already in love with the breed and with the Celebration. In years to come we continued to show in Missouri, dreaming of the day we would have a horse good enough to show in Middle Tennessee. We never did get to live that dream as kids, but we never forgot it or the great breed.

Many years later in my life I had a daughter, who almost since birth it seemed, picked up that same love of the horse. She could not wait to begin riding and at the age of 5 started lessons in Tallahassee, Fl where we lived. She began riding on a dressage horse, and soon decided that she wanted to only riding the smooth gait of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Fortunately for us a very generous friend allowed her that opportunity. At that time our daughter, Svanah, began showing this horse 3 or four times a year in Florida and a show in Ga. She was hooked on showing, but more importantly hooked on the kindness of people in this industry and the love of her horse. As time passes we moved to Kentucky three years ago. We did not know how we could ever afford to have a horse for her, but once again the generosity of people in this industry overwhelmed us. Through the kindness of several people Svanah was able to start riding and competing in Middle Tennessee. Her dream was being realized at a very young age of 9 years old. She began making friends with not only the other children in the business, but also the adults of the industry. It has taught her so much. Her

Hopkinsville Middle School Principal has said that what Svanah is learning in her show career, is so much more about life lessons they could ever teach within the walls of a classroom. She is so right ! Svanah has learned how to deal with adversity, she has learned about winning and losing gracefully. In addition she has learned about setting goals for herself and working diligently to make those goals a reality. At 5 years old Svanah prior to ever showing a horse told her family that by the time she was 12 years old she would win a World Championship. One month ago she accomplished that goal. She has new goals and new dreams to seek with her horse, for her that was just the first of many goals set. She loves nothing more than being in a healthy environment on a Friday or Saturday with she calls her horse show family. She could not imagine her horse show world being non-existent. This sport is one of Svanah's ways of being a success. She maintains a straight "A" average in school. Svanah never hesitates to share with anyone that will listen her love for the Tennessee Walking Horse. She has shared so many special moments with friends, parents, and grandparents with fun showing horses.

As a family we all believe this breed is a great breed is one that should never be taken away, especially from all the children like Svanah, that love and learn so much riding them.

With a higher national compliance rate than many areas of human healthcare, we believe that the Tennessee Walking Horse business is headed in a very good direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kelly Martin Family

426 Mason Lane

Pembroke, KY

November 6, 2013

TO: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing,  
and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

FROM: Susan A. Peters

Tennessee Walking Horse Owner, NCWHA Member, Show Enthusiast

Re: PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of not only myself, but an industry of close knit people that I consider to be my extended family. I am a show horse enthusiast, and I have owned show horses for many years. The Bill in question HR 1518/ S. 1406 is causing strife within the Walking Horse Industry. I **oppose** the passing of this Bill or anything like it. It not only takes away my right to choose how I shoe my horses and show them, it would negate many people's way of living.

The Bill as it is written is restrictive, and provides no options for the Industry as we know it currently. All shows will cease to exist within the current parameters, as all horses would be required to be shod the same. The way the Bill is written would require all horses to be shod with a non-weighted shoe. This would in essence make all horses equal as far as showing goes. Thus there would be no reason for the delineation of classes. Doing away with horse shows would have a ripple effect. Trainers would be without jobs, shows would be out of business. Many charities would lose donations. Not to mention, the money that is pulled in by many cities and small towns as a side effect of the shows that pull in spectators and show attendees. I do not have exact figures to give you, but I do know the amounts of money pulled in each year alone by the annual Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee is staggering and contributes a lot to that county's economy. Not to mention the other shows held there every year. If this Bill passes, all of that money goes away. Do we need more people without jobs? Do we need more cities and towns with failing economies?

I propose we continue on the path we have been on. We continue with stringent DQP checking at shows to ensure compliance from people showing their horses. We continue to hold ourselves accountable, we continue to brainstorm and come up with to date procedures to keep the industry on the right track. We have improved with leaps and bounds, our compliance rates get better and better each year. Please do not take our show horse away from us.

Please **OPPOSE** this Bill! Do not take away the right to let owners choose how we want to show our animals and shoe them. Don't do away with an industry that has been around for so long... please give our horse a chance. I enjoy showing my horses, please let me have to opportunity to continue to do so how I wish to.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Peters

Date, Time: 11/8/13 , 12:42pm

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Julie Smith

Re: Bill Name and Bill Number (PAST Act HR 1518/S.1406)

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am a proud Walking Horse supporter. The walking horse industry isn't just a way for someone to only make money, but as for me and my family it was a way of bringing us together. To many times now a days, our families are torn apart for numerous of reasons, so why take something away that gathers not just my family together for fellowship but many others as well?

Now as for our community, the walking horse industry plays a huge part in not only financially supporting the community but it also plays a part in keeping students off the streets and getting into trouble during those active times.

There are some who do wrong within the Walking Horse industry and they should be punished for any crimes in which they commit; however, the rest of the community should not have to suffer for those wrong doers. Please take all of this into consideration and let us keep what is most dear to our hearts.

Sincerely,

Julie Smith

September 30, 2013

From: Erica Way

Re: OPPOSITION TO HR 1518

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I oppose the bill for the following reasons:

I have been involved in the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry financially and personally all of my life.

My grandfather was a professional trainer and my father is currently a professional trainer. For 26 years, my life and my family's life has revolved around the horse industry, not only because it is our livelihood but because it is our passion.

This is the only source of income and employment for hundreds of trainers, my father's sole income is from training horses. He is raising and providing for a family of four children and his profession allowed me to obtain a college education and the industry helped provide scholarships for me and many other horse industry children.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to share a hobby with my entire family. We spend weekends together at horse shows enjoying each other's company but most of all enjoying our other family members- our horses.

We love our horses and I can't imagine my life without them and most importantly, I can't imagine their lives without being able to show and to perform the way they were born to perform.

They love their jobs and many of our horses enjoy their jobs until their late teens, early twenties.

I ask that you please consider learning about our industry and the love we have for our horses before you make a decision on this important bill.

Please do not let uneducated animal rights activists sway your opinion, come see for yourself why we have the greatest performance horse in the world.

11/09/2013, 2:46

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Dodi Speece Owner McDodi Farm and Stable

Re: Whitfield amendment HR 1518

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am opposed to the HR 1518 as this bill would impose even more restrictions on the Tennessee walking Horse which already is heavily regulated already. this bill restricts the size of shoes that a horse may have on it's feet. It does away with the padded shoe and 6ounce chains which is about what most of your watches weigh. The bill not only outlaws the pads on a horse, it also takes away virtually all the other shoes as well. Other breeds have the pads and weighted shoes with out difficulty and the Tennessee Walking Horse should not be penalized. These horses have shown well into their mid twenties after being checked and found clean and sound hundreds of times.

I raise Tennessee Walking Horses and am a small business owner, this bill if passed will put me out of the business of breeding, as it is we only have 2 foals coming next year because the market has been so bad. I have spent over 20 years building my broodmare herd and if this bill passed I doubt if I will be able to even sell my mares much less their foals. we are raising 7 foals from this past spring and I am just praying that there will be a market for them when they are ready to be sold.

Economically destruction of this breed (which is what this bill will do) will result is the charities this breed supports through its horse shows not having the donations they have had in the past, the motels will loose business, the business in the areas of the horse shows will loose business. In turn this will hurt the economy in the areas.

The shoes do no hurt the horses, the shoes do not sore the horses, people sore the horses. There are 3% of the industry that possibly has not cleaned up. I believe the only substance used for soring is gojo which is a hand soap and I believe only a handful of people still use it. The pictures being circulated are of an industry 20 years or more ago. I do not believe that it is right to use the hand



soap as it is illegal, but I also put some on my wrist and wore it for a day and half and did not have any discomfort from it.

Again I implore you to consider this bill carefully as it is a tool of HSUS to destroy this wonderful breed.

Sincerely,

Dodi Speece  
Owner McDodi Farm and Stable  
Burleson, Texas

09 November 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Beth Sanford, Owner, Breeder, Exhibitor of Tennessee Walking Horses

Re: HR1518/S1406 also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am adamantly OPPOSED to the P.A.S.T. Act, a.k.a. The Whitfield Bill, a.k.a. H.R.1518/S.1406.

In my opinion, this legislation is an unnecessary waste of taxpayer money, discriminatory, a clear, present, and severe threat to the economy and job market, and a blatant attempt to devalue livestock. The Horse Protection Act, a COMMERCE LAW, already exists to regulate the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse industries, and has done so very well to date. We have a 98% compliance rate with the Horse Protection Act, a fantastic compliance rate by any standard, making new legislation or change to the current legislation completely unnecessary. This legislation is pushed by the Humane Society of the United States in a conflict of interest that should be investigated by the Congressional Ethics Committee. The Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse are far from abused. These animals are dearly loved and cared for. If they were abused, they wouldn't still be showing into their late teens and 20's when most horses in other breeds are ready for retirement; but they are, and they do it because they love to show and they are genetically built to do so. That said, here are but a few reasons I OPPOSE this POORLY CONSTRUCTED LEGISLATION:

1.) This is Breed Specific Legislation calling for an end to equipment used by Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses only-- equipment that is used by many other breeds including, American Saddle Bred, Arabian, Morgan and Hackney Ponies. Breed Specific Legislation is DISCRIMINATORY and has been renounced by the President of the United States and the White House in 2013.

2.) This legislation will remove ALL SHOES OF ANY KIND from these 3 breeds only! The only shoes that these breeds will be allowed are those prescribed by a vet as therapeutic. Thus, if we shoe our trail horses with plain keg shoes--same shoes worn by all other breeds for trail and light use--we will be in violation of a federal law for doing nothing more than shoeing our horses. We, in this industry, are hard working, God-fearing, respectable citizens of this country, and the Humane Society of the United States, an organization known for its questionable fundraising and lobbying practices, are spreading lies to make it illegal for us to put shoes on our horses that have been SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN (per a study by Auburn University) to cause absolutely NO HARM. There are far and away more significant and pressing issues in this country with respect to breaking the law that NEED to be dealt with than worrying about what shoes a horse wears.

3.) This will cost millions to implement and enforce. There are more important issues to address with the crime rate, unemployment, health care crisis, and economy of our country in such a precarious state.

4.) This will cost thousands of jobs across the nation. Unemployment is already ridiculously high, we cannot afford for it to rise higher.

5.) The economic impact will be devastating for the nation to the tune of approximately \$3 billion.

6.) Whitfield's wife is on the payroll of HSUS, thus a major conflict of interest for him to introduce a bill that is being pushed by HSUS. As members of the United States Congress, it should be clear what kind of CONFLICT OF INTEREST this is for him, and what kind of conflict of interest each co-sponsor exposes himself or herself to by supporting this UNNECESSARY LEGISLATION.

7.) The value of the livestock that we have within our industry, including 85% of our horses comprising our show stock, which are bred specifically for showing, will be basically cut to zero with no compensation. This will render these animals unable to do what they were bred to do, which will make them very likely to be slaughtered because many people cannot afford to keep them as pasture ornaments.

To reiterate, the HPA as it is currently written provides for adequate supervision of the breed. The USDA reported in 2012 that the industry has inspected 520,750 horses over the previous six years, at NO COST to the tax payer, with the latest reported compliance rate being 98%. The poorly constructed new legislation being introduced does not address the issue of "soring" nor does it offer any sustainable funding to enforce the proposed bills.

Therefore I ask that the Members of the Committee to VOTE NO and reject the P.A.S.T. Act, a.k.a. The Whitfield Bill, a.k.a. H.R.1518/S.1406.

Thank you for your help in saving our industry.

Respectfully Yours,

Beth Sanford

Milan, Tennessee

November 9, 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce,  
Manufacturing, and Trade.

Chairman: Representative Lee Terry From: Tennessee Walking Horse  
GrassRoots Organization (TWHGRO), Wartrace, TN

Re: HR 1518 aka the Past Act, to amend the Horse Protection Act

The Tennessee Walking Horse Grass Roots Organization firmly opposes this bill.

TWHGRO's mission is to PROTECT, PROMOTE and PRESERVE the Performance Tennessee Walking Horse in the traditional show ring and to extend the same principles to the entire breed in all disciplines; to SUPPORT other pro animal ownership and pro animal agriculture groups; to OPPOSE without reservation or compromise ALL animal rights groups; to OPPOSE all attempts to infringe upon responsible animal ownership and the Constitutional rights of those owner; to OPPOSE all legislative attempts and regulations which infringe upon the Constitutional rights of responsible animal owners and animal agriculture; to SUPPORT all office holders and candidates who promote and support the principles of responsible animal ownership and animal agriculture and uphold the Constitutional rights of those animal owners.

HR 1518 is breed specific targeting 3 breeds the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse and Spotted Saddle Horse only, while exempting breeds which use the same equipment.

We find this to be not only an infringement on the rights of responsible animal owners by punishing them and reducing the value of their legal property, it is discriminatory by singling out these 3 breed.

HR 1518 is backed by HSUS an animal rights group which is anti animal agriculture, there is a blatant conflict of interest by the author of the bill Rep. Whitfield whose wife Connie Harriman is a high position employee of HSUS .

HR 1518 harms animal agriculture by removing 90% of the affected equines from the show ring, ending their useful careers for which they were bred. Contrary to HSUS's position these animals cannot necessarily be repurposed into areas for which they were neither bred nor trained. You will deem these animals useless, glutting an already strained economic market with more animals. The removal of these divisions will also affect the breeding industry, already hard hit by the economic downturn and struggling to recover.

HR 1518 is an agricultural JOB KILLER. Trainers, farriers, vets etc. all the way down to the farmer who raises the feed and hay for these animals will be financially affected if this bill passes. In turn the dollars from Ag which flow into the communities will decrease. In one community a single horse show provides \$40 million to the local economy during one show PLUS the everyday monies that flow from the year round "horse business".

While there are additional issues to make this bill unacceptable, surely the above points will ensure that you will vote against HR 1518. The Horse Protection Act is a commerce bill, this bill does NOTHING to facilitate commerce, it stifles it.

Vote NO on HR 1518.



November 7, 2013

12:40 p.m. PST

House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Russ Thompson  
Trainer, Owner, Breeder and Exhibitor

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As President of the West Coast Walking Horse Trainers Association, past Board member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association; serving on the Pleasure Horse committee, Show Horse Committee; Current member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitor's Assoc. Past Vice President of the National Trainers Association, Member of the American Horse Council and United Professional Horseman's Association, I am writing to voice my concern over the Whitfield Amendment, H.R.1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T and express my strong support of all aspects of the Tennessee Walking Horse which includes trail, pleasure, performance, training, and competition, the padded horses and all divisions that include weighted shoes.

Our own Industry has spent years testing, inspecting, and studying training and competition methods and whether these horses are injured and/or abused during their years of training and competition. We have found that with proper care and training, as with any breed of animal, these horses are healthy and have one of the longest show careers of any breed, Many showing and healthy into their teens, showing no signs of detriment. They are magnificent animals to watch and enjoy.

This Industry has taken it on its own to run an enforcement and inspection program, paid for by the industry with no cost to Taxpayers, where EVERY horse at EVERY horse show is inspected. No random checking. Every horse is required to pass multiple tests before entering into the arena.

If this bill, Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T., passes the house it will have a devastating effect on the horse industry. It will shut down 85 % the Tennessee Walking Horse

11/5/2013



To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: "Peaches" Carol Searles: Concerned Owner of Tennessee Walking Horses,  
Member of the Grass Roots and TWHBEA

Re: **H.R. 1518/S 1406 the PAST Act**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of my self and as an owner and a member of TWHBEA and the Grass Roots which is an owners organization, I would like for you to hear me out on the bills

**H.R. 1518/S 1406 the PAST Act.**

Please **vote NO** to these bills, they are very breed specific legislation and will remove **all** weighted shoes from the Tennessee Walking horse, the Racking horse and the Spotted horse. We will only be allowed to use a shoe prescribed by a vet. These bills will cost thousands of jobs related to our horse industry from the farrier to the feed stores. The HSUS and associates claim that this will stop abuse in these industries, you know this is not true, there are many instances of abuse in flat shod and barefoot divisions, there are chemicals and substances used in other breeds, there is dishonest competition in all breeds, there is neglect and ignorance in other breeds. The inspectors that do these show inspections are from the USDA or trained by the USDA, our horses go through very stringent inspections from feeling, swabbing, walking, iris scans, and the list goes on, and yet we are still 98.9% compliant with the HPA, so why is this issue even in front of you today? We are not stating that we do not have issues just like any other sport, and trust me these beautiful animals are athletes just like any other athlete, but **If a ball player gets caught doing drugs, do you get rid of the game or the player???**

Unless this bill will apply to all breeds, which will destroy the equine industry as a whole, and you can provide new jobs for all the ones that will be lost, I urge you to support my position on the H.R. 1518/S 1406 the PAST Act.

Thank you,

Peaches Carol Searles

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

From: Dru McCormick

Re: HR1518/S1406 also known as the P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am a member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association (TWHBEA), The Walking Horse Trainer's Auxiliary and an owner, breeder and fan of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

I oppose these bills and I am asking you to oppose them because:

1) It has been proven pads and action devices do not harm any horse per the Auburn study submitted to the USDA By the Department of Large Animal Surgery and Medicine School of Veterinary Medicine Auburn University, AL 36849

2) The bills are breed specific legislation and will remove all weighted shoes from the Tennessee Walking horse, the Racking horse and the Spotted Saddle horse. I feel this is unconstitutional because many other breeds use pads and action devices. All shoes, even the smallest type have weight. None of the other breeds who use these are inspected. It is interesting that the compliance or non-compliance numbers are publicized from our shows, and I guess it is assumed that other breeds are at 100% compliance. The truth is- there is NO inspection and NO data from other breeds and they are left alone. Other breeds could not pass our regulations.

3) These bills will end thousands of jobs related to our horse industry from farriers, grooms, trainers, farm help, tack shops, hay suppliers and feed stores. The town of Shelbyville, TN will dry up. Motels, restaurants, shops, training barns, equipment shops, tack companies and sale barns will lose jobs and money. Property sales will plummet as many owners have second homes in Shelbyville. Most of the before mentioned groups have been affected because of the bad publicity of the animal rights groups. All of them hire employees. With the economy the way it is, does it make sense to end an industry that is regulated?

4) Millions of tax dollars will be lost by city, county, state & federal.

5) Millions of dollars going to many local charities will end.

6) The USDA's records show that after inspecting 1000's of horses 91% were found compliant with the HPA (Horse Protection Act). Most of the non-compliant issues were small problems such as a shoeing band that was 1/8" too high or the pad/shoe ratio was off measurement by 1/8"-1/4" or an action device 1gram over 6oz. weight. When all the non soreing issues were taken out, the Walking Horse is 98% compliant. Please realize that other breeds do not have the strong inspection process we have. Their heel/toe ratio does not matter. There are breeds that wear shoes competitively that would be considered "illegal" in the Walking Horse breed, yet we are the only ones being inspected. We receive "Letters Of Warning" from the USDA for illegal substances found on our horse with names like "O-Aminoazotoluene". After researching the substance, it is

coloring found in oils, fats, and waxes such as shoe and wax polish. Vitamin E (found in lotions and hair conditioners) Sulfur (found in hair shampoos and conditioners). And the list goes on. The USDA then turns around and reports that there is a high number of the show horses who had foreign substances found on them. The HSUS loves this data and uses it against us, conveniently without explaining the substance. Can we not give them a shampoo bath or shine their hooves for competition without being accused of soring?

7) These are bills pushed, promoted & financed by HSUS who are working one animal, farm, pet store, breeder & pet owner at a time to end all agriculture in the USA.

Please if you do not know First Hand about the horses, not visited a sanctioned show, not visited a reputable barn, it would be reckless to endorse these bills.

Thank you for your help defeating and opposing this bill.

Sincerely,

Dru McCormick

November 9, 2013

To: Chairman Lee Terry, House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

From: Shea Sproles, Tennessee Walking horse owner, breeder and exhibitor

RE: H.R. 1518- Prevent All Soring Tactics or PAST Act

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I have bred, owned, and exhibited Tennessee Walking horses for 10 years. I have participated in trail pleasure, park pleasure, and performance classes and support all aspects of the breed.

In addition, I served on the board of the East Tennessee Walking Horse Association for four years. I currently serve as treasurer of the East Tennessee Classic horse show( four years total). Proceeds from horse shows in both organizations support children's charities such as St. Jude and Small Miracles Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Kingsport, TN.

I oppose H.R. 1518. If you look at the bill proposed by Representative Ed Whitfield, a quick summary shows he eliminates the HIO system, bans weighted shoes, pads, action devices and increases penalties for violators.

- Clearly, Congressman Whitfield and other supporters of the bill have not thought about the ramification of thousands of unwanted horses if H.R. 1518 is passed. Eliminating weighted shoes, bands, and chains will essentially abolish Tennessee Walking horse shows. If shows are abolished, thousands of horses will be sold as owners will not keep horses in training if there are no horse shows.

- Ban on Weighted Shoes, pads and action devices - This has no factual basis. The Auburn Study, the only study done on this concluded 6oz action device and pads don't harm the horse. Other breeds, such as Saddlebreds, Morgans, and Arabians, use weighted shoes in the show ring.

- Increase penalties - the industry has no problem with stiff penalties for violations of the HPA as long as the inspections are objective and completed by competent, unbiased HIO or USDA personnel. However, because inspections are subjective by nature, I do not support making a violation a felony. The punishment does not fit the crime. Many more serious crimes committed in society today are not felony offenses.

- H.R. 1518 PAST Act is legislation sponsored by the Humane Society of the United

States and has the full support of Congressman Whitfield's wife, Connie Harriman who is a Senior Policy Advisor for Humane Society Legislative Fund. The fact that Congressman Whitfield introduced H.R. 1518 is a conflict of interest and should be considered by the Committee.

I oppose H.R. 1518 and respectfully act the Committee to vote against the bill.

Thank you,

Shea Sproles 382 Branch Rd Fall Branch TN 37656

11/09/2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce

From: Blake Wester

Re: HR1518 (PAST Act)

In Opposition

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I oppose HR 1518 because

- This bill will have a detrimental impact on the economy by both killing jobs and having a trickle down effect due to the lost revenue.
- There is already legislation governing this issue.
- The industry successfully self-regulated.
- This bill is supported by the HSUS .
- Ed Whitfield's wife works for the HSUS.
- This bill will set a negative precedence on the entire horse and livestock industry as a whole.
- The government cannot afford the responsibilities it now has and does not need to spend more money that they do not have.
- This Bill does not define "weighted shoe."
- Removing the pads from us and not from other breeds is discriminatory.

This bill will cause a breed of animals to slowly disappear. Without the performance horse sector of the Walking and Racking horse industries they will be unable to sustain themselves. This industry is highly regulated and has passed with flying colors. These animals are healthy and Sound. My father as well as myself have been involved in this industry for many years. He began riding Walking Horses as a young child and passed the love of these majestic animals down to me and I made my first trip to the show ring at the age of seven and still show to this day. We love these animals and take very good care of them providing for their every need. This industry is a source of income for thousands.

Many people think the only ones who will be affected by HR 1518 are the owners and trainers. But the reality of it is this industry makes jobs in many areas such as farriers, veterinarians, feed manufactures, feed stores, truck sales, trailer sales, and the list will just go on and on.

I ask that you please vote no on this issue.

Thank You,

Blake Wester





PO Box 2436  
414 S. SOUTH STREET  
GASTONIA, NC 28053  
PHONE: 704-867-1795  
FAX: 704-867-1820  
WWW.KAKASSY.COM  
N.C. BAR# 9297

November 8, 2013

To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.

From: Tom Kakassy

Member, North Carolina Walking Horse Association; Director, Tennessee Walking Horse  
Breeder's and Exhibitor's Association

Re: HB 1518—"The Whitfield Amendment"

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am an amateur rider and trainer, a lawyer actively litigating HPA cases, and am active in  
administration of state and national Walking Horse organizations.

Whitfield is bad law which does what bad law does: it confuses causes cause and effect; will be  
expensive with no result; will kill jobs; and will have unintended consequences directly contrary  
to its intent.

The amendment abolishes action devices approved by the USDA some 40 years ago and in doing  
so disingenuously says they are "associated" with soring, a problem which has been and is  
eliminated when inspection techniques are competent, consistent, tough and effective. Its  
abolition of pads on horses and of "weighted" shoes" is not only without any basis in science; it  
runs contrary to the conclusions of the Auburn study commissioned many years ago, and to  
generations of experience by horse men.

The economic impact of inconsistent and incompetent inspection techniques in the horse  
business has been a disaster. This amendment attempts, to paraphrase to Army captain in  
Vietnam, to save the village by destroying it. In reality, it is drafted and funded by HSUS, which  
if it desired to eliminate the perceived problem would work with my organizations and others to  
eliminate it.

Please let this bad proposal die in committee.

Thomas B. Kakassy



November 7, 2013

12:40 p.m. PST

House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Russ Thompson  
Trainer, Owner, Breeder and Exhibitor

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As President of the West Coast Walking Horse Trainers Association, past Board member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association; serving on the Pleasure Horse committee, Show Horse Committee; Current member of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitor's Assoc. Past Vice President of the National Trainers Association, Member of the American Horse Council and United Professional Horseman's Association, I am writing to voice my concern over the Whitfield Amendment, H.R.1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T and express my strong support of all aspects of the Tennessee Walking Horse which includes trail, pleasure, performance, training, and competition, the padded horses and all divisions that include weighted shoes.

Our own Industry has spent years testing, inspecting, and studying training and competition methods and whether these horses are injured and/or abused during their years of training and competition. We have found that with proper care and training, as with any breed of animal, these horses are healthy and have one of the longest show careers of any breed, Many showing and healthy into their teens, showing no signs of detriment. They are magnificent animals to watch and enjoy.

This industry has taken it on its own to run an enforcement and inspection program, paid for by the industry with no cost to Taxpayers, where EVERY horse at EVERY horse show is inspected. No random checking. Every horse is required to pass multiple tests before entering into the arena.

If this bill, Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T., passes the house it will have a devastating effect on the horse industry. It will shut down 85 % the Tennessee Walking Horse

which exceeds more than \$350 million a year in business, which will effect hundreds of thousands of people. Including but not limited to Owners that not only love their animals, but the monies that they have invested in their animals that will be lost, Employees, that will lose their jobs, Breeders that sell their babies, will no longer have a market in which to sell, Youth groups, that support and help the youth with scholarships and growing, Families that spend hours as a family unit showing and exhibiting together, Thousands of dollars that are donated to Charities each and every year, Real Estate that is sold throughout the year for farms and homes.. This list could continue, but I am hoping you will consider these and reflect on how much this bill could destroy and cause irreparable harm to a wonderful family oriented industry.

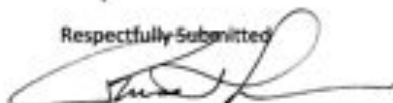
We sincerely hope that you will hear the voices of those who love and care for these horses on a daily basis and have invested their lives into caring for a remarkable and beautiful breed.

We certainly acknowledge and respect the title that you have achieved and respectfully ask that you act in a reasonable and fair manner in regards to your role in determining the outcome of this Whitfield bill as it will affect the Equine Industry as a whole and more so the Tennessee Walking Horse.

We urge the distinguished committee as you engage in significant action that may negatively affect an entire industry to please support HB 2110.

Thank-you for your consideration

Respectfully Submitted



Russ Thompson  
15231 Pine Ln.  
Chino Hills, CA. 91709  
909-226-9671

November 4, 2013  
10:00 a.m. PST

House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade  
Chairman: Representative Lee Terry

From: Susan Brassy, Owner, Breeder, and Exhibitor

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am an owner, breeder and exhibitor of the Tennessee Walking Horse; I have been involved in the breed for over 35 years. Therefore I am writing to express my concerns over the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T

I have watched this wonderful talented breed grow as the breeding has become more and more refined. I grew up an athlete, competing in swimming, gymnastics, and horses and, just as in athletics; basketball, baseball, swimming, we watch our athletes improve at every Olympics or event each year. I have watched this breed grow and develop through selective breeding and self-inspecting by leaps and bounds. The horses have become more beautiful to the eye, more athletic and more naturally gaited every year. But it seems we continue to have disagreements with those that do not understand or those who have their own agenda in regards to this magnificent animal.

I have watched this breed spend years defending itself from those who have their own agenda, and I have watched this breed grow and develop an inspection for every horse at every horse show that is not seen in any other breed. Most owners, trainers, breeders and participants of this breed are proud of the entire aspect of the Tennessee Walking Horse and only want the best for their animals, thus, an inspection beyond compare required before any horse is allowed to enter the show ring. Still the breed suffers ridicule from factors within its own world.

I have owned and been witness to other breeds at many venues. I have seen Draft horses that wear pads on their feet. I have seen Saddlebreds that wear pads on their feet. I have seen Thoroughbred race horses that have developed leg problems on the track have a therapeutic shoe with pads used to help the horse heal. Therefore I am confused by the fact that factors within the breed that I love are determined to take pads and weighted shoes away from this

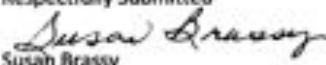
beautiful show horse. Because they do not like a certain division, why is an entire industry in harm's way of being destroyed .

The Whitfield Bill definitely has the ability to destroy an entire industry. It has the ability to take millions of dollars out of an already suffering economy. It has the ability to take employment away from thousands of people, it will take money away from many Charities, as most horse shows give generously to Charities of all kinds, it will take Scholarships from the youth within the industry, it will take away a family oriented activity and so on.

I definitely respect the office and title that you hold and I respect the role that you have been chosen for, I would just like to request that the committee please consider with great regard the depth of the harm that this bill could carry and the destruction it could cause for so many, before you engage in significant actions that may negatively affect an entire industry, our horses and trainers, our owners, our employees and our families.

I urge the committee to please support HB 2110

Respectfully Submitted



Susan Brassy  
Owner, Breeder, Exhibitor  
15231 Pine Ln  
Chino Hills, CA 91709  
909 226-9672

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: STEVE WEINGARTNER

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

This letter is being written to voice concern over the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act. And to voice strong support for the Tennessee Walking Horse in regards to the training and competition of those horses that wear pads and all divisions that wear a weighted shoe.

Many years have been spent in the consideration of training and competition methods and whether the horses are injured and/or abused during their years of training and competition. It has been found that with proper training and care, as is in any breed, these horses are healthy, live long lives and have longevity in the show arena if desired. Each and every horse is carefully checked by an in house inspection agency at industry cost to make sure all horses that enter any horse show arena are in compliance. This is the only breed that does this. We fully advocate and continue support of training and competition in these disciplines.

We acknowledge and respect the role that you have in the consideration of the above mentioned act, known as the Whitfield Act and /or P.A.S.T. and sincerely request that you act reasonably in your consideration of said Act and respect the voices of those who deal with this magnificent animal on a daily basis and acknowledge that this Act could bring irreparable harm when there are no weighted shoes, that is every metal shoe known to man, and pads that absolutely have therapeutic purposes for any and all breeds, and an entire industry is shut down by 85%.

Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Name: Steve Weingartner  
Address: 9719 MANZANITA DR  
Phone: (909) 980-6449

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Demara Nuzum

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

This letter is being written to voice concern over the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act. And to voice strong support for the Tennessee Walking Horse in regards to the training and competition of those horses that wear pads and all divisions that wear a weighted shoe.

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Name Demara Nuzum  
Address 9119 Manzanita Afton, CA 91737  
Phone (909) 980-6449

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From:

Rouena Matheson

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

This letter is being written to voice concern over the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act. And to voice strong support for the Tennessee Walking Horse in regards to the training and competition of those horses that wear pads and all divisions that wear a weighted shoe.

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,



Name

Rouena Matheson

Address

2612 E International Ave Plais CA 93061

Phone

559-240-0481

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Danny Wooten

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Name: Danny Wooten

Address: 631 E. YORBA LINDA BLVD. PLECONIA, CA 950

Phone: 951-733-8542



November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Donna Hughes

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

This letter is being written to voice concern over the Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act. And to voice strong support for the Tennessee Walking Horse in regards to the training and competition of those horses that wear pads and all divisions that wear a weighted shoe.

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Name Donna Hughes  
Address 9841 Kase Canyon, Cherry Valley Cal  
Phone (909) 845 5518 92223

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Paul Hughes

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/5 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Name Paul Hughes

Address 9841 Kehl Canyon Cherry Valley Ca 92223

Phone 951) 845 5518

November 5, 2013

10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: HARRIET CAPPALAN

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,



Name HARRIET CAPPALAN

Address 3872 HARVEST CT CHINO CA 91710

Phone 909 464 2025

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: ADRIANNE BENHAM

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

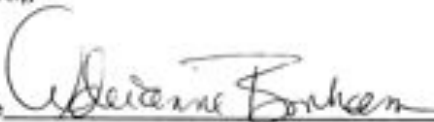
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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

  
Name Adrienne Bonham  
Address 9780 Kehl Canyon Cherry Valley 92223  
Phone (951) 312 2725

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: James L. Norrie

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/5 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Name James L. Norrie  
Address 14130 Foothill Ave. San Antonio CA  
Phone 408 607-7298

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Bobbie & John Parady

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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Sincerely,

Name Bobbie & John Parady  
Address Bonsall, CA  
Phone 818/425-3436

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Johannah Miller

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,



Name

Johannah Miller

Address

1152 CATHAY DR. S. JOSE, CA 95122

Phone

408-455-2184

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Tanya McCaskay

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

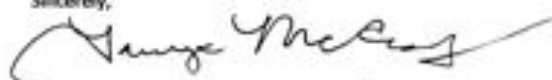
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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,



Name Tanya McCaskay

Address 933 Foothill Dr. San Jose, CA 95123

Phone 408-859-3592



November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Jim & Carolyn Landers

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:


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Sincerely,



Name Jim & Carolyn Landers

Address 743 Thermal Ave Rd Wood CA 95648

Phone 916 425 0531

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: KENNETH M. REICHENBARGER

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely, K. M. Reichenbarger

Name KENNETH M. REICHENBARGER

Address 54922 PAVAN RD TAMERON CA 92583

Phone 951-676-6039

November 5, 2013  
10:25 a.m. PST

Representative Lee Terry, Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy Manufacturing and Trade

From: Arleve Wink/USOE

RE: Whitfield Amendment, H.R. 1518/S 1406 aka P.A.S.T. Act

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Therefore, we respectfully request and urge the committee to support HB 2110.

Sincerely,

Arleve Wink

Name Arleve Wink/USOE

Address 34972 Paula Rd Tempe, AZ 85259

Phone 951-676-6039

**November 9, 2013 10:00am**

**To: House Committee on Energy and Commerce: Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade.**

**Chairman: Representative Lee Terry.**

**From: Anna Kathleen Bradford, Tennessee Walking Horse Owner and Exhibitor**

**Re: Whitfield Amendment  
HR 1518/S1406**

**Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:**

**I am an Owner of several Tennessee Walking Horses. My 15 year old daughter shows several of the horses at Tennessee Walking Horse Shows all over the Country.**

**I am writing in opposition of passing the Whitfield HR 1518 bill.**

**When reviewing the past 6 years statistics on “USDA Accepted HIO Figures for the Years 2007-2012”, you will clearly see that show violations from 2007 through 2012 never reached a 1% violation rate. Even if these numbers are 50% off, the TWH industry would have less than a 3% violation rate. With this small amount of violations and rigorous inspection process, how can anyone say that is our horse is being routinely abused? (See Attachment 1.)**

**The economic impact of HR 1518 will put successful Ag related businesses in the past. By eliminating 85% of the horse shows showing, jobs will be lost not only in direct equine business, but in those secondary businesses which also depend on equine agriculture. This means more people in the unemployment lines. Communities are known to have a direct positive impact of \$40 million alone in revenue to one middle Tennessee Community from one horse show.**

**\$2,563,195 flowed from horse shows in 10 states into Charities over 3 years. (See Attachment 2.) This charitable giving will cease.**

**How can anyone say they are for the horse or animal lover when they are willing to pass a law that will cause so many horses to face the slaughter house?**

**Perhaps the fact that the Tennessee Walking Horse is the product of generations of selective breeding is why the HSUS has latched onto this breed as their “cash cow”. Connie Harriman, HSUS employee, wife of Rep. Ed Whitfield might have that answer. Could it possibly be that the Tennessee Walking Horse industry has not contributed one dime to the HSUS?**

**It is a documented fact that Tennessee Walking Horses walk the way they do is due to the DRMT3, a gene/enzyme found in the walking horse and not found in trotting**

**breeds, plus generations of selective breeding. This is why the Tennessee Walking Horse has the ability to do its unique and exciting gait. Not by soring the horse.**

**Auburn University conducted a scientific study and concluded that a 6 oz. chain does not cause pain or tissue damage to the TWH horse. Six oz. chains are the only chain size in use today. In other words, the 6 oz. chain is not the cause of abuse. These 6 oz. chains are weighed by USDA trained DQP when all horses enter the show ring and again immediately upon exiting the show arena. Why is the Whitfield Amendment Act trying to make the use of 6oz. action device chains illegal? Why does Whitfield say action devices are abusive when Dr. Ram's Scientific Auburn Study says chains/action devices do not cause pain or tissue damage?**

**One must also address the fact that the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry has been singled out in the action device issue. This breed specific legislation, which pertains ONLY to Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses and Spotted Saddle Horses in actuality does nothing that the bill purports it will accomplish. American Saddle bred horses and the Morgan Horse industry use the same equipment sought to be eliminated through the passage of HR 1518. Therefore, these breeds should be included in this legislation so as not to raise concerns of discrimination on the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry. That would certainly have a much larger impact on job loss and charitable contributions.**

**The bill is a job killer.**

**I suggest that the programs, HIOS, DQP, inspections have had a positive impact on the TWH industry internally. I suggest all horses should be inspected prior to showing.**

**Due to the fact that HR 1518 destroys commerce, not facilitates it, the bill should be soundly defeated. It is well documented that action devices do not cause soring as well.**

**THEREFORE, I urge the Committees to support HB 2110.**

**Thank you for taking the time to read my response to the Whitfield Act.**

**Sincerely,**

**Anna Kathleen Bradford  
Tennessee Walking Horse Owner and Supporter  
4221 Potomac Ave.  
Highland Park, Texas 75205**

Dear Elected Representatives,

As a small-time Tennessee Walking Horse owner and long-time admirer of this breed, I am writing to beg you NOT to vote for the "Whitfield Amendment."

1 - The number of horses suffering abuse is minuscule among the thousands of us who own and ride and show Tennessee Walking Horses. There is much more

suffering and abuse in any athletic event where winning is paramount and money is involved - what about college football games where games are being scheduled at high noon so they can go on TV, no matter it is over 100 degrees, and higher than that on the field.????

The vast majority of us Tennessee Walking Horse owners DO NOT sore our horses. We value them as riding partners and family pets, and spend immense amounts to keep them in good health, and out of pain. We enjoy showing them at Tennessee Walking Horse shows and do not even participate in the divisions where most of the soring occurs.

2 - The WEIGHTED SHOES are not inhumane. They correspond to various specialized athletic shoes designed to enhance performance or to protect the feet. The ratio of weight of shoes to horse total weight is much less than that of a pair of combat boots to a human. They are designed to let the laws of physics help the horse reach farther...

3 - The much-disputed BANDS that go around the hoof to secure the shoes are not inhumane either. Think of a pair of sandals with straps and a pair of flip-flops. Which is going to stay on your foot if you trip, have very uneven footing, etc.? If ANY horse pulls off a shoe, it is likely to pull off a chunk of hoof wall which takes 6 months to re-grow. Horses can pull off shoes frolicking in the pasture, catching the shoe on a ledge or wire or any of a hundred things they might encounter. Like anything else, bands can be made too tight, but the VAST MAJORITY of us who put them on our

horses do so for the protection of the hoof and in the interest of the overall soundness of our animals.

4 - Outlawing the use of PADS will also cause problems. Horses with foot injuries or having had foot surgery need to wear pads while healing to protect their feet from soil, urine and feces ; horses working in very hazardous terrain wear pads to protect the surface of the foot from puncture or bruising. A horse that has torn away hoof wall may need a pad to balance out the foot with the healthy foot, much like prosthetics on a human . The pads themselves are not the problem.

5 - These horses are genetically predisposed to do the much-debated walking gait. They are built with long back legs and come "wired" to move as they do, just as some lines of quarter horse are bred to be short and stocky with short legs and move with very short choppy steps. To someone who has not seen the babies in the pasture, followed the horse's development from its first days of being ridden and all of the successive shoeings to the "big lick" phase, the show gait with the padded shoes may look un-natural and forced, but in reality it is a well-planned and logical progression of training to enhance what the horse already has the potential to do. A giraffe running looks pretty un-natural, too, if you have never seen a giraffe.

6 - If the weighted shoes and the pads are so damaging to the horses, why are so many still showing and being ridden at the ages of 10, 15, 20????? (By the time many other competitive breeds are 10 years old, their soundness has been compromised by the stresses of their particular disciplines and they have been "retired.") Not as a justification for spring, but most soring practices do not affect the long-term soundness of the horses anyway, but cause scarring on surface areas. I have bought 20 year old horses with soring scars and they were sound as could be, and still going strong nearing 30.

7 - This will take down a whole industry and cause even MORE UNEMPLOYMENT and financial woe. It will hit the SELF-EMPLOYED AND SMALL BUSINESSES the hardest. These are trying to live their life the American way, with gainful employment at something they find meaningful. Where will they find other jobs in this market? This will result in even more people on unemployment...TWH SHOW INDUSTRY - no more dollars changing hands in local economies through rental of the facility where the show is held, motels, restaurants, gas stations, TWH show personnel - judges, ring stewards, announcers, inspectors who are not paid a lot, but it allows many to continue in their basically self-employed free-lance financial life.

TWH RIDER CLOTHING industry- this will put out of work the self-employed tailors who specialize in making custom attire for walking horse riders, and the few small companies who sell off-the-rack attire for TWH shows - most of these bear a "Made in USA" label - there go more hidden jobs.

TWH FARRIERS - again, the self-employed will be hit hardest, as the horse shoers will lose their clients, which also means less demand for trucks, gasoline, farrier equipment, business cards, and the Specialized weighted shoes of which there is a current inventory that will become worthless.

**RIDING EQUIPMENT** Saddles, bridles, and other horse paraphernalia for this discipline are sold by a few private companies, most located in Tennessee. The higher end equipment is made by American craftsmen. These small companies are already suffering from the general downturn in the economy, and the increasing urbanization and suburbanization of America, with children more interested in being in electronic playstation world than out in the real world sweating, getting dirty, and swatting mosquitoes (all of which horse enthusiasts cheerfully bear for the rewards of riding horses).

**HORSE TRANSPORT** Horse trailers are another essentially American industry that will suffer. Horse trailers are manufactured right here in the USA, and sold by local dealers, not large chains. If you are not going to shows, why would you need a 3 or 4 horse trailer (and new tires for it, maintenance, acid-washing, etc.) (Just buy a cheap stock trailer to tote a horse to the vet if needed.) In the Horse Transport Industry, there are also the truckers who transport horses cross country for breeding, sales, and competition. More expensive equipment idled, and costs of transport not spent (fuel, motels, restaurants).

**TRAINERS** Another essentially self-employed group whose livelihood is already dependent upon the vagaries of weather, horse health, client faithfulness or fickleness, etc. It has been my observation that most trainers are in an age group that will not easily find other employment, even if they re-train for another career (which will take time in itself).

**BREEDERS** Why breed more horses if you can not show them, sell them, or even ride the ones you have to their most advantageous gait for pleasure riding? Stallion owners, broodmare owners will now have a surplus of useless stock. Unlike bicycles or computers, you cannot put a horse on a shelf and store it until you can sell it or use it again. Horses require constant feeding and maintenance = big \$\$\$. There will be a glut of value-less horses. IS the SPCA ready to step up and take care of all of them? The Horse Rescues are overfull already. This also means idled facilities, barns, pastures, paddocks - meaning noneed for persons offering services like fencing, roofing, painting, shavings, veterinary care, feed stores - all more small and local businesses impacted.

**HORSE OWNERS** (Like myself, who has 3 Tennessee Walkers that I keep at a boarding barn, train myself, and use for showing and pleasure riding) will lose the market for horses they have bought and wish to sell to upgrade, for a change of discipline or temperament. I repeat, horses cannot be hung on the garage wall until they are useful again. They are a commitment of time and energy and money. I support a host of local businesses - local feed stores, local farrier, local vets, local tack shops,



local hay growers, plus the specialized TWH businesses located elsewhere. When I go to shows, I support another host of local businesses in the communities where I show. I support the TWH organizations I belong to. Make them irrelevant and there will go some more small business jobs.

THIS BILL IS NOT JUST ABOUT BIG SHOES AND SORING DONE BY A FEW UNETHICAL

PEOPLE. IT IS ABOUT KILLING A WHOLE INDUSTRY.

PLEASE LEAVE THE POLICING TO THE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED - we who show are

already considerably inconvenienced by having to have our horses feet checked EACH TIME they enter the ring and again afterwards if we win First Place.

PLEASE VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL. Its repercussions will be far more harmful than the actions of the few who are doing the violations.

Thank you,

Laurine Elkins Marlow, Ph.D.  
College Station, Texas

