



A M E R I C A N  
H O R S E C O U N C I L

1616 H Street, NW, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20006

May 22, 2022

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

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Schakowski and Ranking Member Bilirakis:

The American Horse Council is grateful the House Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce (House Committee on Energy and Commerce) will be conducting a legislative hearing on May 26, 2022 to consider a series of bills to “*Protect Consumers and Strengthen the Economy.*” Two of the bills under review at the hearing (H.R. 5441, the “*Prevent All Soring Tactics of 2021*” (PAST Act of 2021) and H.R. 3355 the *Save America’s Forgotten Equines Act of 2021* (SAFE Act of 2021) involve the horse industry, and we are grateful for your thoughtful consideration. The American Horse Council also offers our expertise to assist the Subcommittee as well as all Members of Congress as it relates to the horse industry.

As do all associations, the American Horse Council is founded on consensus of its membership in terms of positioning on issues. As our goal aspires and reflects the intentions of our membership – we do not have a formal position on the SAFE Act due to our commitment to our members. The horse industry is still split on its evaluation concerning the needs and utility of horse processing within the United States. However, we strongly support the PAST Act, as we are committed to ending the cruel practice of soring of Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses and racking horses and urge the Subcommittee’s expedient support and approval

of the PAST Act to strengthen the Horse Protection Act (HPA) and ultimately end the practice of soring.

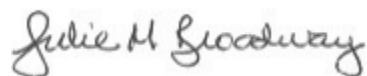
Soring is an abusive practice used by some horse trainers in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, and usually involves the use of action devices, chemicals, pads, wedges or other practices to cause pain in the horse's forelegs and produce an accentuated show gait for competition. Despite the existence of a federal ban on soring for over fifty years, this cruel practice continues in the "big lick" community.

The PAST act would amend the HPA to prohibit Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses and racking horses being shown, exhibited, or auctioned with an "action device," or "a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, hoof band or other device or material" if it is constructed to artificially alter the gait of the horse and is not strictly protective or therapeutic. The legislation would also increase fines and penalties for violations. As you know, the PAST Act has strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

Most major national horse show organizations support the PAST Act, including the American Horse Council, the American Quarter Horse Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Paint Horse Association, U.S. Equestrian Federation, the American Morgan Horse Association, the Pinto Horse Association of America, the Arabian Horse Association, the American Saddlebred Horse Association, the United Professional Horsemen's Association, and the Appaloosa Horse Club as well as many state and local horse organizations.

Again, we very much appreciate the prompt consideration and support of the PAST Act and urge the bill's approval and timely consideration in the full Energy and Commerce Committee and ultimate House floor consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie M. Broadway".

Julie M. Broadway, CAE  
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