



TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

March 7, 2014

The Honorable Diane Black
United States House of Representatives
1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-4206

Dear Congressman Black:

On behalf of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, I want to thank you for your co-sponsorship of the Horse Protection Amendments Act of 2014 - H.R. 4098 by Congressman Marsha Blackburn. We support this common-sense approach and believe H.R. 4098 provides a path for all Tennesseans to once again embrace the beauty of this majestic horse.

The Tennessee Walking Horse Industry is not only important economically to Tennessee, but the breed is iconic to our state. Over forty percent of Tennessee Walking Horses reside in either Tennessee or Kentucky. The Equine Industry as a whole provides a valuable market for many agricultural commodities and owners patronize many farm service businesses. Clearly, the industry and its activity are a major contributor to the tourism value in Tennessee. We are proud of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry and support shows and competition within all breeds and types of horses. Competition showcases the performance and capabilities of a horse. It also encourages steady improvement of genetics and lineage to ensure quality within the breed.

H.R. 4098 addresses the inspection inconsistencies and provides certainty to the inspection protocol. Certainty will allow the vast majority of horse owners, trainers and breeders and those who play by the rules to confidently participate in the horse shows. Congressman Blackburn's bill sets up a fair and scientific process to provide that certainty. H.R. 4098 implements an objective, science based testing process and provides a bright line indicator of the misuse of both chemicals and equipment. This technology and process ensures the basic rights of those who follow the law will be protected. For those who do not follow the law, the inspection process will provide undisputable evidence.

We can accept subjective opinions on the beauty of the horse; however when it comes to inspections objectivity is a must. We support H.R. 4098 and thank you for your support as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacy Upchurch".

Lacy Upchurch
TFBF President

cc: The Honorable Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee
Julius Johnson, Commissioner of Agriculture
Bob Stallman, President of American Farm Bureau Federation

WLU:RR:ck