

**COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE HORSE
PROTECTION ACT OF 1970**

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My name is C. A. Lee, III. I have been a breeder and exhibitor of Morgan horses for over 30 years. I have served on the Board of Directors of the American Morgan Horse Association for over 20 years and have been a vital part of the show committee for the Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show since 1996.

I am here to voice my concern over the proposed revisions to the Horse Protection Act of 1970. As a breeder, exhibitor and enthusiast of *America's First Breed*, I can tell you that my first priority, as well as everyone else in what is considered my "Morgan family," is the health, welfare and perpetuation of this magnificent animal.

I urge you to take the extra time and due diligence necessary to consider the far-reaching consequences some of these proposed changes will have on the Morgan breed as well as many other performance breeds NOT subject to soring practices, including Morgans, American Saddlebreds, Hackneys, Arabians and Friesians.

I whole-heartedly agree the practice of soring is disgusting and should be stopped. However, a broad sweep of all practices without careful consideration will have an overall negative effect on this industry as well as the thousands of well-cared-for animals currently loved by families and individuals throughout this country.

As an example, the use of pads, wedges, hoof bands and weights are all common practices in many USEF member breeds. Use does not involve soring, yet is prohibited under these proposed changes.

After 9-11, it was determined footwear was a potential threat to the safety of millions of air travelers across the country. As a result, all shoes and socks were NOT banned for air travelers. Just as all pads and action devices should NOT be banned for all horses.

These proposed changes are vague and open to interpretation. All lubricants on outer extremities would be prohibited without adequate definition. Have you not ever used liniment on a muscle? Or, after shave on your face? Similarly, such prohibitions could be detrimental to the care, comfort and welfare of the horse.

Breeds such as the Morgan, American Saddlebred, Hackney, Arabian and Friesian are cultivated to the *peak of happiness and fitness* in order to perform at their best. These breeds should not be included in a broad sweep of generalized regulations intended to stop specific actions exhibited by a few. Please consider the future of these “related breeds” and take another look at how these broad changes would affect the industry as a whole.

Thank you.

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