

VERMILLION VALLEY EQUINE CENTER
10705 Camp Creek Rd.
Belvue, KS 66407

Chairman and Members of the Ag and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Ann White and I am the owner and manager of the Vermillion Valley Equine Center. I have been in the horse industry for thirty years. I also serve as the Vice President of the Kansas Horse Council and the President of the Kansas Hunter Jumper Association. My husband I are also in the cattle business so I have experienced first hand the benefits of the beef check off program which I find similar to the Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Act.

I believe that it is vital to the equine industry to be allowed to promote itself in the same fashion as the beef, dairy, swine, poultry and various other ag industries. There is a great need for education on disease control, unwanted horses, safety issues, liabilities, recreational opportunities, employment, etc. The need for more public facilities and improvements to existing facilities is apparent. The equine industry would benefit greatly from employment of a lobbyist to represent us on issues such as horse slaughter, equine health regulations, emergency response, transportation laws, animal cruelty situations, etc. At the current time we have no funds to support any of this activity.

The economic impact of horses in Kansas is significant. Many of our dollars are going to other states with better breeding programs, better facilities that can host better competitions and have a stronger method of communication among equine enthusiasts.

Please pass the Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Act...House Bill #2449 on to the full House so that we may better ourselves and keep our people, jobs, horses and dollars in the great state of Kansas. Thank you. Are there any questions?