



HB 2090 Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Board

I am speaking on behalf of the Kansas Thoroughbred Association membership. The members of our organization are in full support of the K.E.E.P. bill.

This bill allows horseman to develop a fund that can help promote the equine industry in Kansas. Our organization has been functioning for many years. We just held our 27th Annual Convention at the Kansas State University's Alumni Center this past January.

This bill will allow the equine industry in Kansas to be self supporting. The monies that will be collected from an assessment on each bag of commercial horse feed. The 5 cents per bag will accumulate during the year and be collected. This is a way to get a pool of money that can be put back into the equine community by a grant program.

There are many opportunities for different groups to apply for grants to help with equine related programs. At a recent Horse Panorama at Rock Springs the teams that are going to go on to national competitions could apply for help with travel. The recent educational seminar put on with Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and the Kansas Horse Council could have monies for youth scholarships to attend the educational day. The saddle clubs could apply for grants to help fix up arenas, trail riders could apply for helping fix up camping sites. At the recent, Governor's Flint Hills Visioning Summit held at Rock Springs a discussion on tourism which trail riding could be a big component. Grants could be made available for horse groups to apply for many activities: educational, 4-H, FFA, saddle clubs, trail riding groups, rodeos, handicapped riding and military equine related programs to just name a few.

Please support the HB 2090 and allow the equine industry to move forward by supporting all our entities.

Senate Agriculture Committee

Date: 2-20-13

Attachment # 13-1

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