

March 17, 2023

The Honorable Andy Barr
U.S. House of Representatives
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barr:

We write in support of the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2024 Community Project Funding request to assist researchers at the Gluck Equine Research Center in developing the equine biological passport (EBP). Specifically, UK is requesting funding from the United States Department of Agriculture to purchase equipment, hire researchers and analyze data to develop the EBP.

The health of our beloved horses is paramount to our industry, which supports some 65,000 workers in Kentucky. Current drug and medication testing of our equine athletes detects the presence of a limited number of substances. The EBP would be distinct, giving practitioners the ability to learn more about how legitimate medication and illicit substances impact horses biologically and long-term. The passport program would also broaden the spectrum of substances that can be detected. Importantly, the EBP would better identify racehorses which are at-risk of injury before they compete, with the goal of decreasing injuries and breakdowns. Simply put, the passport program would make our sport safer and support Kentucky jobs.

Thank you for your consideration of UK's Gluck Center EBP funding request and thank you for your unwavering commitment to Kentucky workers in the equine industry.

Sincerely,

Shannon Arvin, Keeneland President and Chief Executive Officer
Drew Fleming, Breeders' Cup President and Chief Executive Officer
Jim Gagliano, The Jockey Club President and Chief Operating Officer
Tom Rooney, National Thoroughbred Racing Association President and Chief Executive Officer
Chauncey Morris, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association Executive Director