



January 23, 2025

Donald J. Trump Presidential Landing Team  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Landing Team Members,

We are writing to ask the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to begin the process of formally withdrawing, in its entirety, the Horse Protection Amendments final rule, published in the Federal Register on May 8, 2024, portions of which are scheduled to become effective on February 1, 2025, and to explore any and all available options, including delayed implementation of enforcement of the entire rule.

As Commissioners of Agriculture in our respective states and as veterinarians, we know firsthand the importance of protecting the equine industry and these animals. However, we must do so with practical, common sense, science based and enforceable regulations.

If implemented, the new HPA rule would devastate the equine community, especially breeders, trainers, and horse owners nationwide. Agriculture and its related industries need policies that are helpful rather than harmful.

Excessive regulation, unwarranted government expansion, unnecessary expenses, and burdens will negatively impact the industry and the economy. Your action in this matter is crucial for sustaining the economic vitality of our national equine industry.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Strain".

Mike Strain, DVM  
Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture  
& Forestry

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlie Hatcher".

Charlie Hatcher, DVM  
Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture