

Public Policy Committee  
Houston, TX  
2013

Mr. President, the Public Policy Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. To strongly recommend retaining AQHA's lobbyist in Washington, DC at current funding levels given the important issues and their potential impact on the American Quarter Horse industry.
2. To identify and implement innovative PAC fund-raising methods to raise at least \$250,000 by the 2014 elections.
3. To support the following:
  - a. Equine Tax Parity Act (HR 988) – to shorten the holding period for horses to be eligible for capital gains treatment from 24 months to 12 months.
  - b. Comprehensive immigration reform to streamline the application process for H2-A and H2-B workers and provide a process to legalize undocumented workers and to protect employers.
  - c. Amendments to the Horse Protection Act to deal with the soring of Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses provided the legislation is not overly broad; is limited to the problem it is intended to solve; and does not adversely affect those segments of the industry that are not soring horses and have no history of soring horses.
  - d. The efforts to develop a National Equine Health Plan, including the formation of an Equine Disease Communication Center and a Biosecurity Tool Kit as proposed by the American Horse Council and American Association of Equine Practitioners.
  - e. The reauthorization and full appropriation of the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program.
  - f. USDA's regulations for the humane transportation of horses to processing. To that end AQHA opposes any additional regulations or legislation that would restrict the transportation of horses and other livestock.
  - g. The option of humane horse processing as a much better option than starvation, neglect or inhumane treatment inside or outside of the United States as consistent with positions established by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and American Veterinary Medical Association.
4. To strengthen the Q-Contact program by:
  - a. Identifying important states where Q Contacts are needed to help assist with educating Members of Congress on horse related issues.
  - b. Reengaging current Q Contacts with a webinar on legislative and regulatory issues and PAC fund-raising.

- c. Enhancing communication to members of the Public Policy Committee and Q-Contacts by sending them the Animal Welfare Coalition and American Horse Council newsletters.
- d. Communicating legislative action items to Public Policy Committee members and Q-Contacts to ensure timely communication with Congressional members.

5. To elect Wade Ellerbroek Chair of the Public Policy Committee.

On behalf of the Public Policy Committee, I move that the Membership support these recommendations and forward them to the Board of Directors for approval.

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Wade Ellerbroek, Chairperson