

March 29, 2024

Mr. Allen Bosworth, President  
Mr. David Mount, Executive Director and CEO  
American Saddlebred and Breeders Association  
4083 Iron Works Parkway  
Lexington, KY 40511

RE: Notice of Termination dated March 15, 2024

Dear Messrs. Bosworth and Mount:

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated March 15, 2024, addressed to Chairman Lynn. I am responding on Dr. Lynn's and the Kentucky State Fair Board's ("KSFB") behalf. I will refrain from responding to each point, as that is not productive. My lack of point-by-point response does not mean I accept or agree with your assertions, nor that there is no answer to your questions.

I disagree with your assessment of the "ongoing dispute" between the KSFB and the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association ("ASHBA"). It is quite the contrary.

The tenor of communications you have sent me and the KSFB since the KSFB's unanimous vote on February 15, 2024, to seek licensure from the Equine Sports Commission ("ESC") instead of the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") is not productive nor reflective of the understanding between the KSFB and ASHBA and memorialized in the 1995 agreement that you seek to terminate. It's arguable whether the 1995 agreement is currently effective 29 years later and if there is even an agreement to be terminated. We recognize that the WCHS has paid ASHBA \$100,000 every year since 1995; however, we are also aware that ASHBA leadership has supported a Saddlebred horse show in Ocala, Florida that is in competition with the WCHS, and a prohibition in the 1995 agreement.

We have heard from you and members of ASHBA who believe the KSFB made a mistake in selecting ESC to be the governing body for the 2024 WCHS and we have heard from other members of ASHBA and the Saddlebred industry who believe the KSFB made a prudent choice in seeking licensure from ESC for the 2024 WCHS. What we now know is that the KSFB, having given opportunity for public comment, along with the month-long campaign by ASHBA to seek to dissuade the KSFB from its previous action, that the February 15, 2024, KSFB action to seek licensure from ESC stands.

Until recently, and not until after the February 15, 2024, KSFB meeting, the KSFB was not aware of ASHBA's "Affiliate Agreement" with USEF where ASHBA has agreed not to affiliate with or recognize any "national organization for the breed and disciplines USEF governs". To agree to

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such a restrictive term is perplexing. We feel differently. We believe that the Saddlebred industry should be open to whatever organization is aligned with the Saddlebred horse and seeks to improve the breed, competitions, and the future of the Saddlebred horse. Restricting yourselves to only USEF endorsed national organizations is arguably shortsighted, something the KSFB cannot afford to do. The KSFB has produced the WCHS for 120 years and during those 120 years has been transparent, fair, and forward thinking. We cannot allow others, including ASHBA, to unnecessarily restrict the WCHS to whom it may affiliate with as the WCHS is owned and produced by the KSFB, which is an "independent, de jure municipal corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Kentucky". See KRS 247.100(2).

The KSFB desires to produce a world class 2024 WCHS and hopes that ASHBA will rethink its position that its "Affiliate Agreement" with USEF prohibits ASHBA from participating in some way with the KSFB and WCHS. KSFB staff are ready to work to address Futurity and Sweepstakes classes with or without ASHBA's consultation. Similarly, the WCHS is working toward administering its own qualifications or point system should ASHBA not recognize qualifying star shows. But let me be clear, the KSFB desires to produce a world class 2024 WCHS and welcomes whatever participation and support ASHBA may bring; however, to restrict the KSFB to whom it may affiliate or partner, does no one any good, especially the Saddlebred industry.

Sincerely,



David S. Beck  
President and CEO

C: Dr. Mark Lynn, Chairman  
KSFB Members  
Ms. Scarlett Mattson, WCHS Manager  
Ms. Corinne Fetter, Executive Director of Expositions  
Mr. Kevin Moore, General Manager  
Ms. Jackie Hale, ESC Board member