



March 7, 2024

Mr. David Beck  
President & CEO  
Kentucky Venues  
P.O. Box 37130  
Louisville, Kentucky 40233-7130

SENT VIA EMAIL: david.beck@kyvenues.com

Re: Governance of the World's Championship Horse Show

Dear David:

On behalf of the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association ("ASHBA"), we are writing to express our disappointment and concern regarding the recent decision of the Kentucky State Fair Board ("KSFBS") to change the governing body for the World Championship Horse Show ("WCHS") from the US Equestrian Federation ("USEF") to the Equine Sports Council ("ESC"). The KSFBS's failure to consult ASHBA on this decision is perplexing, as the governance change will have tremendous consequences for the Saddlebred industry and could have bearing on the contractual arrangement between ASHBA and the KSFBS.

Our concerns were exacerbated after receiving an invitation to the WCHS Town Hall meeting. The invitation was a surprise because ASHBA had already expressed our concerns regarding the change in governance, yet the Town Hall is presented as a done deal with questions being answered as opposed to gathering information to inform the decision as we understood.

For an example and at the heart of the discussion, by changing governance, the WCHS has put ASHBA in an extremely difficult position. ASHBA previously entered into an Affiliate Agreement with USEF governing ASHBA's status as a USEF affiliate, as we have for many years. Section 2.14 of the Affiliate Agreement requires that ASHBA to:

*"refrain from affiliating with or recognizing any national organization for the breeds and disciplines USEF governs, other than the ones recognized by USEF as a Recognized Affiliate, unless an agreement with USEF is reached concerning the scope of said affiliation."*

After conferring with our attorneys and USEF representatives, we have determined that by continuing to associate with the WCHS under the governance of ESC or any other governing



body or set of rules, we are putting our Affiliate Agreement with USEF in jeopardy. **Such a continued relationship may require the ASHBA to terminate our USEF affiliate status – something we are unwilling to do.** There are many other concerns as well, for example Safe Sport enforcement.

It is our desire to resolve this situation with the KSFB for the betterment of our breed and the show. We urge the KSFB to reconsider its decision.

We look forward to working with you to resolve this important and time-sensitive issue.

Sincerely,

Allen Bosworth  
President

David Mount  
Executive Director & CEO

Enclosure

C: Dr. Mark Lynn, Chairman, KSFB  
Ellen Benzing, General Counsel  
Kevin Moore, KEC General Manager