



12911 Reamers Road | Louisville, KY 40245
502-245-8800 | Fax: 502-245-7747

November 8, 2024

Allen Bosworth, President
David Mount, Executive Director
American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association, Inc.
4083 Iron Works Pike
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

RE: Concerns of an Interested Member of the American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association, Inc.

Dear David and Allen,

As you are aware, I have had a lifelong involvement with the American Saddlebred horse. As an owner, exhibitor, breeder, and former director of the organization now known as the American Saddle Horse and Breeders Association, Inc. ("ASHBA"), I have invested considerable time, money, and effort towards not only developing a performance and show horse breeding program, but more broadly to fostering and promoting the American Saddlebred. In my time serving as a Director of ASHBA, I was fortunate to serve on a Board with colleagues who shared the same passion for the American Saddlebred horse. We may not have always agreed, and healthy and open debate often made for better decisions, but at the end of the day everyone remained focused on serving the interests of the membership in promoting the American Saddlebred, and preserving the integrity and legacy of the breed. I write with great concern that over the last few years, ASHBA has deviated dramatically from that purpose and priority of serving the membership to safeguard the future of the American Saddlebred. I am not alone in this concern among the membership.

A primary concern, and a concern I know many members share, is the lack of openness and transparency with which the affairs of ASHBA are being conducted. Unfortunately, it appears this lack of transparency dates back to around the time just before the merger of the American Saddlebred Registry with American Saddlebred Horse Association, Inc. in later 2020 into 2021. When information is hidden from the membership, that creates suspicion as to how and why decisions are being made. It also creates a complete lack of accountability to the membership the Board serves.

Among this lack of openness is the extent to which it appears the current Board for the past few years has relied on discussing important matters for ASHBA in Executive Session rather than as part of the normal course of a Board Meeting. ASHBA is required to keep minutes of the

least one, and hopefully more, member(s) of the Board please make this request so that the members can have at least someone trying to do a true accounting of the operations of ASHBA?

I am not attempting to cast blame or otherwise cause divisiveness. In fact, it is the opposite. I am trying to ensure that the membership can be informed so everyone can operate from a verified basis of facts so that we as an industry can begin to heal any divisiveness. That can only be accomplished through openness and transparency. Among the most important and valuable tasks for any Board member is to listen to the membership, and not only the small factions you believe might agree with you. Likewise, it is just as important to have transparency in conducting the affairs of ASHBA—not just communication through press releases but openness in the manner in which ASHBA's business is conducted by the Board.

One of the greatest intangible assets of the Association is the wonder and beauty of the American Saddlebred, but the greatest strength of the Association is its membership. I know that first-hand from my time serving as a Director. There is power, expertise, and knowledge among the strength of the membership. The direction the Association has headed over the last few years minimizes the membership, which ultimately hurts the Association. If you choose not to engage and be open to new ideas that will threaten the Association's future relevance. I will not stand idly by and just let that happen or let the actions of a few jeopardize the future of the American Saddlebred.

Sincerely,



Scott Hagan
Hagan Saddlebreds, Inc.

Cc: Board of Directors of ASHBA