



NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC

www.NYSHC.org

Time for Action

I'm asking for your help. Legislative time is here and it's time for you to contact your local legislators. If you feel **Equine Inherent Risk** protection is important, now is the time to act. Please call your legislators now.

New **Equine Inherent Risk** legislation was introduced again. Assembly Bill A559 (sponsored by Assemblywoman Woerner and 14 cosponsors) paired with Senate Bill S1152 (sponsored by Senator Ortt and 3 cosponsors), called the "Safety in Agricultural Tourism" bill, is "AN ACT to amend the general obligations law in relation to the inherent risks of operating agricultural tourism areas and participating in activities in agricultural tourism areas."

This Bill doesn't remove the responsibility of the horse owner from making every effort possible to keep clients and visitors safe. It simply adds a degree of responsibility upon that client or visitor to understand there is a degree of danger when anyone steps on a farm or visits a stable and pets an animal or is simply near one.

We want to get this legislation passed because it may reduce insurance rates and reduce frivolous law suits. It will strengthen our industry. It faces strong opposition from the NYS Trial Lawyers Association which has a strangle hold on the Assembly in our State. They portray farms and businesses as an accident waiting to happen with dangerous situations lingering all over the place.

If you believe inherent risk protection is important for our industry, you need to call your legislators now, and again, and again, to let them know they need to support these Bills and tell them the Trial Lawyers have a distorted view of our farms and stables. New York Farm Bureau will include **Equine Inherent Risk** among their topics when they visit legislators on March 7. We want to support them with a huge letter writing campaign to Assembly members. You can help by sending an E-Lobby letter through the NY Farm Bureau web site: Go to WWW.NYFB.ORG and click on E-LOBBY to send a letter directly to your legislators. You don't have to belong to Farm Bureau to do this. Farm Bureau supports all agriculture, including equine. NY Farm Bureau is a critical ally for equine agriculture. Let's show them that we stand with them on **Equine Inherent Risk**.

Thanks for your support,

Stephen Ropel, President
New York State Horse Council
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