

I am writing to you concerning House Bill 2645. I am an equestrian with a background in the small animal veterinary field and an owner of two dogs. While I completely think that dog training facilities are wonderful places where our canine friends can play and people can get help and training to better handle our fuzzy friends, I think that exempting dog training facilities from structural codes can and will open numerous issues to our peaceful agricultural communities.

As a horse and barn owner, dogs can be a huge distraction and a danger to both horses and livestock, especially when unattended to. My neighbor currently has two dogs and they often will come on to my property and will spook and chase my horses and bark at them. Although my neighbor and I have discussed our situation, I cannot imagine the stress, unhappiness, and anxiety a dog training facility next door would have on me, my farm, and training business. Dog training facilities are loud and can cause their own list of issues. While I see the necessity of the training facilities and how they can help owners manage their canines, it also opens the door to allowing many untrained dogs to run wild on these properties, stressing and antagonizing existing neighboring livestock and horses. Allowing these facilities to be exempt from state specialty codes, such as the farm impact test, leads to problems, problems that currently one of my equine friends is having with her horse property and the 'dog training' facility next door. With exemption from state and county codes and without certain restrictions, protections for horses and livestock owners cannot be filed as the bill currently stands. Barking and chasing (even from the other side of the fence) are huge horse and livestock stressors. Without the farm impact test applied to dog training facilities, barking and chasing issues would go unmanaged and there would be zero grounds for filing any sort of grievances.

I, too, own dogs and I do see the advantages of offering training and having facilities in rural locations, but I also believe that there is a better way to make sure that our current agricultural neighbors and livestock owners have the ability to report issues and file grievances, where this bill would exempt that action. This bill can and will have an impact on the existing horse and livestock communities and its members.

Please take my thoughts into your consideration when you proceed with your vote towards HB2645. I, again, am not against dog training facilities, but I think there needs to be more thought and some revision to this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Kim Larson-Daiker of Sunstone Sport Horses