



Loudoun County Equine Alliance

Serving The Loudoun County Equine Community

September, 2018

The Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) shares your concerns about the construction of the Rockwool manufacturing facility in Ranson, WV. We thank you for requesting that our county take a closer look at this project and examine options for action. We are working within the Loudoun equine industry to obtain more information on the potential effects here.

Our concerns are:

- **Air quality for horses and riders, especially those performing at highly aerobic** activities such as those in training for competition for various horse sports, as many horses in Loudoun County are. We are making inquiries among our equine veterinary community, including veterinarians at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, to gather specific data on this subject.
- **The subsequent effects on Loudoun's equine industry if detrimental effects from the plant are established or even perceived by the public.** These could include loss of horse population, reduction of attendance at competitions, reduced value of horse properties, and the subsequent harm to businesses that support the equine industry, such as hay producers, feed suppliers, veterinarians and equine hospitals. The equine industry in Loudoun has been shown to have an annual economic impact of \$181 million per year.
- **The spillover effects on Loudoun's equine industry of the plant's harmful effects on the Thoroughbred racing industry** in our area. The racetrack at Charles Town has been calculated to have an annual economic impact of over \$191 million in Jefferson County (WV) alone, and is the only Thoroughbred racetrack in the region. (There are currently no operating Thoroughbred racetracks in Virginia.)
- **The negative impact the Rockwool plant could have on all sectors of Loudoun's rural economy** (vineyards, B & Bs, agricultural producers, etc.) which are all dependent on beautiful vistas, clean air, excellent growing conditions, etc., and are interdependent on each other.
- **The potential for this Rockwool installation to become the first of many heavy industrial uses** in an area within close proximity to our precious rural countryside.

Again, we appreciate and support your efforts to examine the issue of Rockwool's potential impact on our county.

Sincerely,

Kelly Foltman, DVM, LCEA President
Michelle King, LCEA Vice President
Marion Lee, LCEA Secretary
Stephanie Jennings, LCEA Treasurer
Louise Cotulla, LCEA Board Member
Emily Houston, LCEA Board Member
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