

I am writing to ask for your support of a supplement to the annual appropriation act for the fiscal year ending in June of 2022.

Bill A3982 supplements the FY2022 appropriations act by appropriating \$2,500,000 to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to fund the refurbishment and replacement of safety surface material for the show and competition rings and, the modernization of animal stabling for improved safety at the Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern, Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County.

The Horse Park of New Jersey was born of a vision held by a dedicated group of equestrian enthusiasts concerned about the dwindling amount of land dedicated to their interests and activities. On land initially purchased by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with Green Acres funds and centrally located in Monmouth County amidst some of the State's most beautiful and equine-oriented countryside, the Horse Park opened in 1987.

Operated under contract with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the Horse Park of New Jersey at Stone Tavern, Inc., a not-for-profit educational/charitable organization and designated 501(c)(3) corporation, the site has expanded through additional parcel purchases to its present 285 acres. There, these two entities continue to help conceive, fund and execute development of a world-class, destination equestrian exhibition venue – assisted through the tireless efforts of unpaid trustees and hundreds of volunteers who have donated over 300,000 hours to further support and beautify the property.

The Horse Park of New Jersey provides a venue for local, regional, national and international-level equestrian events – building on and contributing to the area's rich and long-standing equine industry. In addition, the Horse Park of New Jersey represents a unique effort on the part of government, private not-for-profit groups and individuals to preserve open space and to protect the use of land and resources.

As a member of the equine and agricultural community, I respectfully ask for your support of this supplement!