



## **The Fayette Alliance**

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*Executive Director*

Elizabeth Knox van Nagell

LFUCG Urban County Council  
Budget & Finance Committee  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Chairman Stevens and Committee Members,

I am here on behalf of The Fayette Alliance. The Fayette Alliance is a coalition of agricultural, neighborhood, and development interests whose aim is to promote urban and rural vitality in Lexington-Fayette County.

Farmland preservation and the promotion of Fayette County's signature agricultural industries are fundamental pillars of The Fayette Alliance's mission—and more importantly, to Lexington-Fayette County's future prosperity.

On behalf of the Fayette Alliance Board of Directors, I respectfully ask you to support the following Equine Task Force recommendations:

- Create the Equine Economic Development Office to advocate the interests of the horse industry
- Enhance policies to create incentives for the stallion and sales industry
- Remove sales tax inequities for horse farm owners, (change classification of horses to livestock)
- Conduct regional branding of our signature agricultural industries
- Encourage the use of industrial revenue bonds to support expansion of the equine industry and related businesses
- Strengthen and enhance the PDR program to maintain a viable factory floor for equine operations
- Remove barriers that prevent purses from being more equitable with racetracks in other states

If adopted and implemented, these measures will bolster Lexington-Fayette County's \$3billion equine, agricultural, and agritourism business. No doubt, the equine industry defines Lexington-Fayette County on the international stage—and both local and state government must definitively act to ensure its continued growth and success in the challenging times that lie ahead.

To do otherwise, jeopardizes our local economy, environmental wellbeing, and cultural "brand" that recruit knowledge-based professionals in today's competitive market-place. Indeed, the health and promotion of our agricultural industry is essential in making Lexington one of the premier destinations in America.

The Fayette Alliance appreciates your support and leadership on this crucial initiative.

Sincerely,

Knox van Nagell  
Executive Director