



May 15, 2018

Ms. Rebecca Bolan, P.E., PMP
Project Manager
Florida Turnpike Enterprise
PO Box 613069
Ocoee, FL 43761

Dr. Rax Jung, P.E.
Project Engineer
Florida Turnpike Enterprise
PO Box 613069
Ocoee, FL 43761

Dear Ms. Bolan and Dr. Jung:

As President of the US Equestrian Federation (US Equestrian), I am writing with regard to Florida Turnpike Enterprise's proposals for the Ocala area.

US Equestrian is the recognized governing body by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) for equestrian sport in the United States and recognized National Federation in the United States by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the international federation governing the sport of equestrian.

US Equestrian is dedicated to uniting the equestrian community, honoring achievement, and serving as guardians of equestrian sport. Since its inception in 1917, US Equestrian has been dedicated to pursuing excellence and promoting growth, all while providing and maintaining a safe and level playing field for both its equine and human athletes.

US Equestrian trains, selects, and funds our United States Equestrian Team, which consistently wins medals at the highest level of international competition, including the Olympic Games. US Equestrian also licenses equestrian competitions of all levels across the United States each year.

Fostering growth among newcomers as well as the coming generation is paramount to US Equestrian's continued success. Our young equestrians continually raise the bar both at home and abroad, pushing themselves to be better and strive for excellence, all while fostering and strengthening the connection between themselves and their horses.

US Equestrian contributes to the greater good of horses by assisting with their protection and welfare in crisis situations and natural disasters, as well as in daily competition. As part of this pledge to protect equine welfare, US Equestrian continues to help support federal and state governments and works closely with other national equine organizations.

On April 26th the Florida Turnpike Enterprise released publically for the first time five different routes through the Ocala, Florida area for this road. Two of those routes (D1 and C2) would run directly through Live Oak Stud, the home of the Live Oak International horse show. We understand that this proposal endangers the very future of Live Oak International. The loss of Live Oak and other horse shows in the area would have a detrimental and negative impact on equestrian sport.



We feel it is important for Florida Turnpike Enterprise to understand that these horse show grounds at Live Oak Stud have enjoyed significant investment from the Weber family, the owners of Live Oak Stud. This show has been in operation for 28 years and is a major, multi-million dollar undertaking creating tremendous benefits for the local community. There are as many as 200 volunteers helping each year and approximately 10,000 annual spectators. This is the largest spectator event in Ocala, Florida. And this location is, quite simply, one of the most beautiful and well-designed horse show grounds in the United States. Attending Live Oak is a joy for horses and spectators alike.

Our mission includes constant vigilance for the welfare of the horses involved in our sports and maintaining an even playing field for all competitors. At Live Oak International the footing for the show jumping is world class. The lay out of the combined driving course is uniquely designed for the enjoyment of the tens of thousands of annual spectators. The excellent conditioning of the facilities at Live Oak International helps make our job easy. It is also why so many leading riders and drivers travel from around the world to be part of Live Oak International each year.

As many as five national championships are held at Live Oak International each year for driving. The show jumping competition has been a World Cup qualifier for the past number of years, one of only 14 such locations in the US. This venue, we hope, will continue to grow in prominence, as a home for even more top ranked international competitions for show jumping.

In summary, there is a world-class horse show of long standing and prominence that would be jeopardized by the toll road that has been proposed by Florida Turnpike Enterprise. We strongly encourage you to reconsider this proposal and avoid impacting the horse shows around Ocala.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Murray S. Kessler'.

Murray S. Kessler
President