

December 12, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION

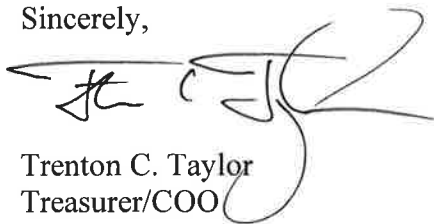
Greetings, my name is Trent Taylor and I am the Treasurer and Chief Operating Officer for the American Quarter Horse Association. The Association consists of 250,000 members representing over a million people who identify with our horse. We have also registered over 6 million horses within the last 77 years, making AQHA the largest equine registry in the world. Our horses are known for their versatility, and our bloodlines are represented in almost every western horse breed. In addition, our horses are represented in almost every discipline. One of my roles is the staff liaison for the Stud Book and Registration Committee, who evaluates AQHA rules of registration and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors. One of the key areas they address is the genomics of our breed.

The Association has a related organization, the American Quarter Horse Foundation, which funds research through numerous universities. Approximately \$300,000 in grants is awarded each year covering various areas for improving the health and welfare of our horse. Several of these grants deal with genomic research. Through this research we have been able to identify five genetic abnormalities within the American Quarter Horse, which allows breeders and owners to better care for effected horses. All of these abnormalities are also found in other breeds. However, we were the first to offer a comprehensive panel test for the improved health of our horse.

Even with the strides we have made in education and research, there are still many areas that need additional time and money. A cost effective complete genome of the horse could open many opportunities for identifying functions and relationships between genes. With comprehensive data gathered on each horse, we could begin to establish relationships between the sub populations and the genes that separate them. We feel this could have far reaching effects, not only in other breeds of horses but other species including humans.

If you have any questions regarding the American Quarter Horse Association or our genome research, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Trenton C. Taylor
Treasurer/COO