

Canterbury Park  
1100 Canterbury Road  
Shakopee, MN 55379

February 20, 2017

Minnesota State Government Finance Committee  
Rep. Sarah Anderson, Chair  
583 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Anderson & Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Canterbury Park and our more than 1,000 employees in support of H.F. 1010, authored by Rep. Bob Loonan. I appreciate your committee considering this bill at your hearing on Wednesday, February 22 and respectfully request the committee's approval. This important legislation seeks to clarify that the Minnesota Racing Commission's operating funds, which are collected through license fees and regulatory fees paid by industry participants, are automatically disbursed to the racing commission by statute.

This legislation is being sought to ensure that Minnesota's racetracks and card rooms could continue uninterrupted in the event of another Minnesota State Government Shutdown. The negative economic impact experienced during the 2011 Minnesota Government Shutdown was devastating. Lost wages for our employees, lost revenue for our horse owners and trainers that rely on racing to make a living, and lost revenue for vendors that serve both racetracks and horsemen were several million dollars and were not able to be made up due to the seasonality of the industry in the state of Minnesota.

Furthermore, although horse racing regulated by state racing commissions has been conducted for over 100 years in over 30 states, the Minnesota State Government Shutdown was the only time to our knowledge that a meet was interrupted due to a regulatory funding impasse. The experience was incredibly disruptive for all involved, and I believe a second occurrence would cause irreparable damage to Minnesota's reputation in the industry.

All participants that ship horses from out of state and bring their businesses to Minnesota each summer rely on purses earned during the meet to cover their expenses and to make a living. Additionally, those that breed horses in Minnesota require this meet to recoup their investment. With the 2011 shutdown of racing in Minnesota being unprecedented and shocking, if it happens again industry participants will view Minnesota as an unstable and unattractive place to race and breed horses. As a result, these individuals will find different states to do business in moving forward and our ability to continue to conduct horse racing in Minnesota will be severely compromised.

In summary, we urge the committee to move this bill forward to properly clarify that the Minnesota Racing Commission's funding, which is paid by the industry through regulatory fees and license fees, shall be automatically provided to the Commission through statute.

Thanks for your consideration of this important legislation,

Randy Sampson  
President & CEO  
Canterbury Park

CC:

Rep. Jim Nash  
Rep. Sheldon Johnson  
Rep. Bob Dettmer  
Rep. Kelly Fenton  
Rep. Peggy Flanagan  
Rep. Steve Green  
Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein  
Rep. Leon Lillie  
Rep. Tim O'Driscoll  
Rep. Liz Olson  
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