



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Racing Commission

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House Committee on Economic Development and Trade:

Re: HB3252

Dear Vice-Chair Smith:

I would like a few minutes of your time to discuss the above referenced bill. The ORC is an "Other Funds" agency providing revenue to the state and supporting an industry with over 3,000 licensees. The agency has attained national prominence and is the primary regulator of Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) companies in the country. The revenue from this regulatory function over the biennium is approximately \$5.9M and represents 92% of the total revenue generated by the agency. These funds are used for agency operations, industry allocations, and general fund contributions. Industry groups receive \$3.5M, general fund receives \$1.1M, and agency operations receive \$1.3M. A significant portion of the industry allocation supports the 5 licensed fair race meets in rural Oregon. The fair meets in Union, Grants Pass, Prineville, Tillamook and Burns are collectively provided \$1.04M to fund their operations. These are important events in these communities. There are currently 9 ADW companies licensed and regulated by the ORC and many offer greyhound racing on their wagering platforms. It is also a substantial percentage (20%) of the handle at Portland Meadows. Even if wagering on greyhound racing in Oregon is determined not to be impacted by the bill it will have a chilling effect on the ADW licensees that rely on Oregon to not only regulate but to support pari-mutuel activity throughout the country. There are other states that are seeking to have these companies relocate to their jurisdictions and Oregon's primacy in this area could be jeopardized by passage of this bill.

There are currently no greyhound tracks in the state and it is very unlikely that any entity will ever seek a license to conduct such racing. To my knowledge since the closing of Multnomah Greyhound Park in 2004 this office has not received a single application to conduct greyhound racing. The greyhound park is now owned by the Grand Ronde Tribe and demolition of the facility began in April 2016. Passage of this bill will have immediate serious consequences for the pari-mutuel and horse racing industry in Oregon which are likely unintended. If you or a staffer is available I would like to meet with you at your convenience prior to the April 5 hearing date to discuss this matter. I believe it is important that the potential consequences of the legislation be explored and welcome the opportunity to visit with you. I realize you are extremely busy and appreciate any time you may provide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

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