



Future of Racing in Oregon Group
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April 3, 2019

TO: Representative Jeff Barker, Chair House Business and Labor Committee
Representative Paul Holvey, Chair House Rules Committee
Speaker Tina Kotek, Oregon House of Representatives

From: The Future of Racing in Oregon Group

Re: SB's 76, 77, & 78

We urge your prompt passage of Senate Bills 76, 77, and 78.

Senate Bills 76, 77, & 78 were introduced by the Oregon Racing Commission with the support of the Future of Racing in Oregon Group (FROG) which includes all of the participants involved in horse racing in Oregon (members are listed below). The bills were introduced in response to the pending sale of Portland Meadows Race Course. The purpose of these bills is to give the Oregon Racing Commission flexibility to license a successor to Portland Meadows in what we hope will be the near future.

Portland Meadows is the only current holder of a commercial racing license and operates in North Portland. In addition to live racing the commercial license gives Portland Meadows certain authorities such as offering wagering statewide on races from tracks like Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby. Horse racing at the fairs and the jobs and economic benefits provided to our rural communities cannot be sustained without the passage of these measures. The Portland Meadows commercial license expires June 30, 2019 which makes it imperative that these bills are passed in this session.

Senate Bills 76, 77 and 78 passed the Senate with votes of 27 yes, 1 no and 2 absent. Clearly the Senate recognized their importance to the horse racing and breeding industries in Oregon and the need to take prompt action. Again, we urge your prompt passage of Senate Bills 76, 77, and 78.

Our committee voted unanimously to support introduction of these bills and to support passage again at its meeting on March 21, 2019. All members were present.

Sincerely

Dave Nelson, OQHRA
On behalf of:

Future of Racing in Oregon Group (FROG)
Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association
Oregon Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
Oregon Quarter Horse Racing Association
Oregon Racing Fairs Association
Oregon ADW Association,
Portland Meadows Race Course