

Subject: Urgent Testimony Against House Bill 4051 - Impact on New Portland Meadows

Brian Sarchi Owner Portland Meadows 2/6/2024

Honorable Representative John Lively District 7 900 Court St. NE H-481 Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Lively,

I am writing to you as Brian Sarchi, the current owner of New Portland Meadows, a historic establishment with roots dating back to 1946. Our facility has been a significant part of the local community, providing entertainment and a source of revenue through dog racing, which has been an integral part of Oregon since 1933.

From 1957 to 2004, Multnomah Greyhound Park served as a gathering place for families, friends, and animal lovers, offering a unique experience of watching and betting on dog races. The revenue generated from these activities has played a crucial role in sustaining our current facility, supporting local businesses, and providing employment opportunities for our dedicated staff.

House Bill 4051, if passed, would have a severe and detrimental impact on New Portland Meadows and similar establishments. The proposed legislation threatens the livelihood of our business, jeopardizing the jobs of our employees and disrupting the economic ecosystem that has been in place for decades.

Beyond the financial aspect, it's essential to highlight the broader impact on the community. Dog racing serves as a form of entertainment for our patrons, many of whom are senior citizens. For them, it is not merely about placing bets on races; it is a cherished outlet for social interaction, enjoyment, and a sense of community.

Furthermore, the revenue generated from dog racing extends beyond the bets themselves. Patrons also contribute to our establishment by purchasing food and drinks, further contributing to the local economy. The proposed bill, therefore, not only threatens the racing aspect but also endangers the ancillary revenue streams that are vital for our sustainability.

I urge you to consider the holistic consequences of House Bill 4051 and kindly request your support in voting against it. The repercussions of this legislation reach far beyond the race track; they extend into the heart of our community, affecting businesses, employees, and the cherished pastime of many residents.

Thank you for your time, understanding, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Sarchi Owner, New Portland Meadows