

GREY2K USA WORLDWIDE



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Kathy Pelton
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Greyhound Adoptions of Florida

Organization listing are for
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February 7, 2024

Chair John Lively
House Committee on Gambling Regulation
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Lively,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony at yesterday's public hearing. I want to provide additional details, including information we received from the Racing Commission this morning. Please consider this supplemental testimony on both HB 4051 and HB 4052.

More Than 10,000 Injuries in the Last Year at Oregon Hub Dog Tracks

In its annual Legislative Report on Greyhound Racing, which we just received this morning, the Commission found that in 2023 there were **10,542** greyhounds injured at racetracks that are currently using the Oregon Hub system. This is a shocking figure that emphasizes the need to end Oregon's involvement in dog racing.

New Cases of Animal Cruelty, Neglect, and Race Fixing at Oregon Hub Dog Tracks

The Commission also reported this morning that there have been more than one hundred violations in the last year at dog tracks using the Oregon Hub system.

These violations include cases of "failure to provide adequate care" to greyhounds, "misconduct at a racetrack," multiple cases of individuals "striking a greyhound," dozens of greyhound drug positives including for anabolic steroids, race fixing ("accepting money to scratch dogs"), illegal underage gambling, failure to provide sanitary kennel conditions, "transporting greyhounds in a manner likely to cause injury or undue stress," and cases of live lure training including "committing a serious act of cruelty on an animal (rabbit) with the intention of inflicting severe pain, causing death."

Very Little State Revenue

The Commission further reported that total state revenue from greyhound racing in the last year was a paltry **\$72,547.76**. Respectfully, we believe the economic impact of dog racing and its relationship to horse racing is being exaggerated in an attempt to maintain the status quo.

House Bill 4052 Does Effectively Provide Operational Funds for Horse Racing

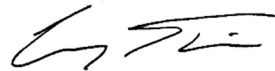
Finally, contrary to testimony provided yesterday, the passage of House Bill 4052 would result in local horse race entities receiving a significant amount of new revenue for operational purposes.

HB 4052 does not simply earmark the 25% of Hub funds currently going to the state to horse welfare. Instead, it redirects all hub revenues to the Commission, with a new mandate that at least 25% of hub funds be used for horse welfare. Existing programs that the Commission is already paying for, such as drug testing, state veterinarians, and other regulatory duties, would count towards that new 25% mandate. This would result in a large surplus of funds that would be directed to horse tracks, because under current law all remaining funds are “distributed for the benefit of the Oregon pari-mutuel racing industry.”

If the Committee opts to provide the Racing Commission and horse racing industry with an additional \$1.6 million in funding per biennium, it should phase out wagering on greyhound racing at the same time. HB 4052 provides the Commission and horse racing industry with several times the amount of money per biennium than they are receiving from wagers on greyhound racing now. We believe it is also reasonable to earmark some of the new \$1.6 million in funding to stakeholders who need assistance as the state transitions away from greyhound racing.

Thank you again for caring about the greyhounds, and for all of your work to help us find a solution on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Theil', written in a cursive style.

Carey M. Theil
Executive Director