



February 8, 2024

House Committee on Gambling Regulation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Wright and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States, we respectfully urge your support for [HB 4051](#) which would prohibit betting on dog races in the state of Oregon. It would also require veterinarians to report when a horse involved in horse racing shows signs of abuse, injury, or inadequate health.

Dog racing events lead to an unacceptable level of animal exploitation and suffering solely for profit. At dog tracks worldwide, greyhounds routinely suffer serious injuries. **According to the Oregon Racing Commission 10,542 greyhounds were injured in the last year at dog tracks using the Oregon ADW hub system.** At the same time, the state received only \$72,547.76 in revenue for its role in propping up this cruel industry.

Racing greyhounds endure lives of terrible confinement. They live inside warehouse-style kennels in rows of stacked cages that are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around. Often confined for 20 to 23 hours each day, with only shredded paper or carpet remnants as bedding in kennels barely large enough for some greyhounds to stand up or turn around.

As of January 2024, there are only two operational dog tracks remaining in the United States, both in West Virginia. Commercial greyhound racing is illegal in 42 states including in Oregon. In seven states, all dog tracks have closed and ceased live racing, but a prohibitory statute has yet to be enacted.

Today much of greyhound racing occurs in foreign dog tracks, like Agua Caliente in Tijuana, which is known as one of the worst dog tracks in the world. Some international tracks, particularly those in Mexico and Vietnam, do not publish injury or outcome reports for the dogs raced in those countries and are consistently recognized as problematic from an animal welfare perspective.

While Oregon has already banned greyhound racing *and* accepting bets (in Oregon) on greyhound racing from other locations where greyhound racing is illegal, HB 4051 would go a step further, by taking Oregon completely out of the business of enabling this cruel and inhumane activity.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of HB 4051.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson
Oregon Senior State Director