

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of Oregon Senate Bill 1524 (SB 1524)**. I urge you to vote **yes** on this bill because of its thoughtful, modest approach to supporting Oregon's horse racing industry.

SB 1524 establishes a *continuing allocation from Oregon Lottery revenues to support specified horse racing events and facilities in our state*. This targeted allocation—approximately **0.03 % of lottery revenue**—is a small fraction of the overall Lottery Fund but can have outsized benefits for an industry that contributes to rural economies, agricultural heritage, and tourism.

Horse racing is an important part of Oregon's rural culture and economy. While much of the revenue associated with pari-mutuel and advance deposit wagering has shifted to online channels and off-track facilities, live racing still provides family entertainment, employment for horsemen and women, and activity at county fairs and small-town race meets. Stable economic support helps sustain these events, which otherwise face financial uncertainty. The modest allocation provided in this bill can help preserve these unique Oregon traditions.

Economically, this allocation will help keep small business and agricultural livelihoods viable. Horse trainers, breeders, farriers, veterinarians, feed suppliers, track employees, and many others depend on a healthy racing calendar. Even if the dollar amount from the Lottery is relatively small in the context of total state spending, it represents a new predictable revenue stream that can support planning and investment in racing facilities and events.

Allocating a small percentage of Lottery revenue to this purpose is prudent and responsible. The Lottery already supports many public priorities—such as education, state parks, and outdoor schools—and SB 1524 simply broadens the list of beneficiaries to include an important but often overlooked sector. By codifying this allocation, the Legislature can provide stability and predictability for horse racing supporters without significant impact on core funded programs.

Finally, enabling Oregon's racing industry to remain active enhances community engagement. County fair races and local meets bring people together, celebrate our state's agricultural roots, and create a sense of place for rural Oregon. The support this bill provides reflects a balanced approach that values tradition, strengthens local economies, and conserves limited lottery funds.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your *support of SB 1524*.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Bret Christopherson