

Submitter: Anestis Polizos

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1524

Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anestis Polizos. I am a the owner of Alexs-Bar, a neighborhood establishment that has served our community for years. I am writing today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1524.

As a business owner who operates an Off-Track Betting (OTB) facility, I see firsthand the economic and social value that the horse racing industry brings to Oregon. My business is more than just a place to grab a meal; it is a "Third Space" where community members gather to engage in the sport of horse racing. This activity drives foot traffic to our local business, supports my employees' livelihoods, and contributes to the local economy of Fairview and the surrounding Pacific Northwest.

SB 1524 is a vital step in ensuring the long-term stability of this industry by creating a continuing allocation of lottery revenues to support specified horse racing events and facilities. The industry has faced significant financial challenges in recent years, and without the support provided by this bill—including funding for track maintenance, purse money, and safety infrastructure—we risk the continued decline of a historic Oregon industry.

Supporting our local horse racing ecosystem directly benefits independent small businesses like mine. By investing in the infrastructure and operations of the Oregon Racing Commission and county fair meets, you are ensuring that businesses like Alexs-Bar can continue to provide high-quality "Experience-Driven" value to our customers.

I urge the committee to vote in favor of SB 1524 to promote economic development, prevent the decline of small businesses, and protect the well-being of the athletes and animals that make this sport possible.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Oregon's small business community.

Respectfully,

Anestis Alexandros Polizos Owner, Alexander OTB INC dba Alexs-Bar / Alexs-Bar  
info@alexs-bar.com