

Submitter: Kenneth Christopherson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1524

My wife Pam and I have been in the horse racing business for 51 years. We started out as owners. We had been in the rodeo game as we grew up. This was a lot of fun but had its ups and downs as far as making any money. And of course, injuries were part of the reason for the change. As far as being owners that was just fine, but we wanted to be more hands on. We both studied up on what it took to be a trainer. we took the tests and Pam, and I became licensed horse trainers. This fit was perfect for us.

When Oregon and Washington voted in the lottery system I could see the demise of our sport. Reason being it, it did not take any smarts or ambition to scratch off a ticket or mark a bunch of numbers on a sheet of paper. Picking a horse in a race meant a person had to be able to read and analyze the best horses in a given race. Truth be told your odds of making your money back and making money are much better betting on horses.

The racetracks started closing down. We lost tracks in, Kennewick, Spokane, Yakima, Boise, Walla Walla, Waitsburg, Dayten, and Portland Meadows. It didn't stop there. California has closed Bay Meadows, Hollywood Park, and all the fair meets in northern California. These closures left a big void here in the West coast.

When the tracks started closing Pam and I decided to limit our Ranch. Bar C Racing Stables to breeding only. We already had a stallion and mares. We started buying another stallion and more mares. in essence we wanted to help our owner and trainer friends with better horses to race.

If you have never been able to attend these fair meets in our beautifie you should take the time to do so. These race meets are put on with volunteer help from the community. The people plan and set up their fair meet with get togethers all year long. Each community also look forward to the race meets as far as the money the stores and restaurants feed stores make. There are also many people who make a living working for the different horse trainers.

In an effort to make this Testimony as full of information and as short as possible I have not waisted your valuable time. If you wish to check my credentials, please google "Bar C Racing Stables "

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony
Neal Christopherson