

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1524

BY

DAVID S. NELSON

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PRESENTED TO

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE

CHAIR BROADMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE I AM DAVID NELSON. I LIVE AT 7479 NELSON LANE, TURNER OREGON. I AM A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR OF THE OREGON QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION, THE PACIFIC COAST QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION, LOS ALAMITOS CALIFORNIA, THE RACING COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION, AMARILLO TEXAS. I WAS ALSO THE CONTRACT LOBBYIST FOR PORTLAND MESDOWS RACE COURSE FROM 1975 THOROUGH 2006.

1. RACINGS PRINCIPLE FINANCIAL THREAT BEGAN IN 1991 WHEN THE LEGISLATURE APPROVED VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS (VLTs) AND VIDEO POKER.
2. BY THE END OF THE 1990'S THERE WERE 12,000 PLUS VLTs - TODAY THERE IS ABOUT 20,000 VLTs
3. IN 1995 THE LEGISLATURE APPROVED PORTLAND MEADOWS AND MULTNOMAH KENNEL CLUB TO HAVE 75 VLTs EACH. VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR
4. 1997 (APPROXIMATELY) LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATED \$4.9 MILLION TO MITIGATE LOTTERY COMPETITION ON TRACKS. AGAIN VETOED
5. BY THE END OF THE 1990s WAGERING ON HORLSE RACING DROPPED FROM \$120 MILLION TO \$70 MILLION
6. MULTNOMAH KENNEL CLUB CLOSED IN 2003
7. PORTLAND MEADOWS CLOSED IN 2019
8. STATE FAIRGROUNDS CLOSED RACING
9. DURINGG THE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS IN THE LATE 1990s THE LEGISLATURE CRRATED THE STATUTORY STRUCTURE FOR ADVANCE DEPOSIT WAGERING WHERE A FAN IN CALIFORNIA COULD BET ON A RACE IN KENTUCKY. (WHEELING)
10. THE OREGON RACING COMMISSION CHARGES A DAILY OPERATING LICENSE FEE AND A SMALL TAX AND APPROPRIATES THE EXCESS FUNDS TO HELP MAINTAIN RACING AT THE SMALL TRACKS LEFT IN OREGON .
11. LAST SESSION THE LEGISLATURE FORBID ANYONE (ADWs) FROM ACCEPTING A WAGER IN A GREYHOUND RACE.
12. THAT ACTION WILL COST RACING \$2 MILLION AND PROBABLY LEAD TO THE DEMISE OF HORSE RACING IN OREGON

SB 1524 WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPANION TO THE GREYOUND WAGERING BAN TO HOLD HORSE RACING HARMLESS, BUT IT GOT LOST IN THE CHAOS OF THE CLOSING OF THE SESSION.

WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT sb 1524.