

February 12, 2026

Chair Anthony Broadman
900 Court St. NE, S-423
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Broadman

My name is Freddy Ibarra. I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 1524. I'm a Quarter Horse trainer in Oregon. I live in Hermiston Oregon and run a small quarter horse racing family operation that consists of myself as the trainer and my wife and children helping with barn and horse duties. I was born loving horses. As a teenager I started as a galloper, and worked my way into being a jockey, racing in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. After starting a family and my kids grew older, I knew I had to make changes and that is when I became a quarter horse trainer and owner.

Horse racing is my livelihood and my passion. It is the backbone of who I am, a life my children have been raised in and are equally as passionate about. My son Alejandro Ibarra received his pony rider license at the age of 16, he is my assistant trainer and dreams to eventually one day become a leading trainer. Horse racing is the community I work in every single day.

As a Hispanic trainer and owner, I am not unique in this industry. I want to tell you the integral role the Hispanic community plays in sustaining Oregon's quarter Horse racing industry. Most of Oregon's horse racing is run, trained, owned and operated by the Oregon's Hispanic Community.

The Hispanic community represents a substantial portion of the workforce that supports daily racing operations, including trainers, jockeys, grooms, farriers, feed suppliers, truck drivers, breeders, farm workers, and facility personnel.

For many Hispanic families in Oregon, quarter horse racing is not simply a sport or entertainment, it is our entire livelihood. It is a source of employment, entrepreneurship, and intergenerational trades. Through this industry, Hispanic families come together to foster a shared sense of purpose, to unite one another through common values and interest. Hispanic families with different backgrounds and different walks of life come together to build local communities.

Beyond the workforce that the Hispanic community contributes, Hispanic owners, breeders and farm owners, contribute to the agricultural and small-business ecosystem that generates employment and supports local economies in Oregon's rural communities.

HB 1524 is not about expanding gambling or creating something new in Oregon, this bill is about preserving an existing industry that has operated responsibly in this state for generations and already contributes to Oregon's economy and agricultural identity. This bill will help ensure that Oregon remains a state where racing is conducted safely, and under strong oversight.

The following people are members of the Hispanic community who are owners, trainers and people who are fans of horse racing that support SB 1524. I am writing this letter for them:

Jaime Leon, Hermiston OR	Sergio Leon, Hermiston OR	Gilberto Madrigal, Boardman OR
Ruben Magallanes, Boardman OR	Antonio Mendoza, Hermiston OR	Isabel Armenta, Umatilla OR
Ismael Villareal, Hermiston OR	Evelyn Orozco, Hermiston OR	Jose Rosales, Hermiston OR
Edwin Rosales, Hermiston OR	Saul Rodriguez, Hermiston OR	Rosa Rodriguez, Hermiston OR
Alberto Renteria, Hermiston OR	Baldamar Rodriguez, Hermiston OR	Jose Fernandez, Gervais OR
Brian Flores, Nyssa OR	Enrique Garibay, Turner OR	Jose Gomez, Woodburn OR
Diego Guerrero, Grants Pass OR	Emilio Guerrero, Grants Pass OR	Roberto Guzman, Canby OR
Juan Baca, Woodland WA	Hector Magallanes, Boardman OR	Luis Torres, Veneta OR

Please pass SB 1524, the legislature has put our industry at a financial crossroads by its action last session. We need this funding to help us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Freddy Ibarra

Cc Members of the Senate Finance Committee