

Submitter: Andrea Ring

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1524

To Whom it May Concern ,

I write as an Oregonian and steward of our state's horse racing community to ask for your support of Senate Bill 1524. This modest allocation of continued Oregon Lottery funding, would sustain and strengthen an industry that supports families, preserves culture, and fuels rural economies across our state.

### A Diverse, Close-Knit Community

Oregon's racing community is remarkably diverse: owners, trainers, grooms, jockeys, pony riders, outriders, and many more from different ages, religions, political affiliations, ethnicities, backgrounds, and walks of life. For many, racing is more than a job—it's an intergenerational calling, a source of pride, and an essential pathway to economic stability. In the stables and on the backstretch, people rely on one another, share meals, raise families, and celebrate together. In a world where there is so much division, this extremely diverse group joins together for one common passion: the horse. SB 1524 protects those opportunities.

### Horses Are Family

Racehorses in Oregon are treasured and meticulously cared for. Owners and trainers invest heavily in nutrition, veterinary care, safe facilities, and lifelong retirements. Walk any barn and you'll see grooms dotting on their horses, stalls cleaned daily, fresh water, careful monitoring by veterinarians, and small acts of affection that show real bonds. This bill preserves the infrastructure that keeps horses healthy and respected—not commodities, but members of our extended family.

### Rural Economic Impact

County fairs and summer meets remain critical economic anchors for small towns—from Prineville, Tillamook, Union and Grants Pass—drawing visitors, supporting lodging and food service, and sustaining local vendors and jobs. Without reliable funding, these events and the communities they sustain will suffer. SB 1524 is an investment in rural livelihoods and local tourism.

### Why Now

Since the closure of Portland Meadows in 2019, live racing opportunities have

dwindled. SB 1524 provides a pragmatic, targeted solution to stabilize funding and protect the people, animals, and traditions that depend on live racing.

Please support Senate Bill 1524—because it preserves jobs, honors diversity, protects animals, and strengthens communities across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,

Andrea Ring

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Owner of Equidae Logistics, LLC.  
Advocate for cultural diversity and community stewardship