

March 5, 2015

Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer  
Committee on Federal and State Affairs

I appreciate very much the opportunity to speak to your committee in support of SB192. As a Director of the Kansas Thoroughbred Association, the Kansas Horsemen's Association and a breeder of horses for racing, I understand the impact of the racing program during the 1990's and until 2007, when The Woodland's Racetrack closed.

Quality bloodstock was purchased and entered in the Kansas Breeding Program. Outstanding local horses that had to go out of the state to race came back to Kansas. In the first three years, the breed registry for Kansas race horses certified over 4,000 horses into the Kansas racing program. Last year (2014) only TWO horses were certified. With the inability to race in Kansas, the race horses and breeding horses were moved to the closest or best program in other states.

The Kansas Thoroughbred Association believes SB192 is the best bill for the state. It contains percentages (stated in the bill) that are sufficient to attract a quality race track operator. The horse programs of the bill encourage a return of racing and breeding operations to Kansas.

No race tracks in Kansas are currently licensed for parimutuel racing. The license for The Woodlands in 1987 was \$500,000 for the dual track (dogs and horses). Wichita Greyhound Park was \$250,000 (dogs only). Whatever fees are negotiated will be income for the state.

I request your support to revive a vital piece of Kansas industry and history. Horse racing and horse production have been important to Kansas agriculture since horses came to our state with Coronado. Horses need grain and forage. They require labor, equipment and transportation. Racing is important to tourism and the indirect economy of our state.

Bring back the millions of dollars that have left our state in the past decade and bring tax dollars back to Kansas. Let's see busloads of tourists at The Woodlands' location, contributing to a larger Kansas economy. The Expanded Lottery Act must be amended for this to happen.

A vote in the affirmative for SB192, is a vote for a stronger Kansas. Your sincere consideration is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Jerry Johnson  
Director Kansas Thoroughbred Association