



Purina Mills®

Jan.30, 2012

To the State of Kansas:

I am in strong support of Senator Bob Marshall's SENATE BILL 241. With being involved in the feed business for the past 33+years I feel I have a good understanding of the positive economic impact Horse Racing has on my industry and allied industries.

I can say from experience of one dealer close to the Woodlands that the closing of horse racing cost him personally 400 tons of horse feed. Not only income from this he lost from horse racing going away, but when you look at lost manufacturing and trucking it adds up. Just income alone from the 400 tons of feed equals out to about \$40,000 for one dealer.

Those horses did continue to race but in surrounding states that had tracks open for racing. Not only do feed dealers lose commercial feed business, but along with feed they lose the hay, shavings, bedding, and Equine Health Products.

When figuring my dealer organization in the East Central Kansas area, I figured it represents 2000-3000 potential tons of horse feed. Not only does this represent the tons lost at the track but on the farms in the area.

I just talked about the negative impact of not having horse racing in the area costs with feed. When you figure all of the other products that go with feed it is so much higher.

I personally see the benefits horse racing has on the feed business when seeing the success of feed dealers in Oklahoma, Iowa, and Florida. The equine racing business is very important to the Kansas economy, we must get it back so we can have our fair share of this great business.

Sincerely,

Ernie Rodina

LOL/Purina Feeds

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