

January 31, 2012
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Re: Support for SB 319

Dan Grotheer
135 East 640 Avenue
Girard, KS 66743

Chair Brungardt and Committee Members:

My name is Dan Grotheer. I live in Girard, Kansas where I own and operate a row crop and hay farm. We also raise registered Quarter Horses for racing. I am here today in support of SB 319.

I currently own 6 registered Quarter Horse mares and 1 two year old filly. The filly is in training in Oklahoma to be raced there.

Two years ago I purchased a yearling race horse at the Heritage Place Sale in Oklahoma City for \$5,000. She was trained in Oklahoma and raced in Oklahoma and Hialeah Park in Florida. In one year's time the training and vet bills were approximately \$20,000 of which all of this was spent in Oklahoma and Florida.

In March and April of this year I will be breeding 6 mares to racing studs, all of which are in the state of Oklahoma. I will average \$2,000 or more per mare to have them bred this season. This is another \$12,000 going to the state of Oklahoma. I am breeding these mares in Oklahoma so they will be eligible for Oklahoma bred races. If there were live racing in Kansas I would breed to Kansas studs for additional money for Kansas bred horses.

The money spent on my horses helps the rural agricultural economy in many ways, jobs and retail stores and veterinary clinics. Live racing in the state of Kansas would stimulate rural economies all over the state of Kansas. From the breeding, raising, training, and racing of these horses or dogs.

My wife and I were first attracted to the horse business some years back when SB 66 was passed. We believed that there would be live racing in Kansas. As it turned out, the track owners could not operate profitably and closed.

I believe that SB 319 is the only bill that will allow track owners to invest the millions of dollars that it will take to re-open the tracks and operate profitably.

If track owners cannot make a profit, the tracks will remain closed and Quarter horses, Thoroughbreds, and Greyhounds will remain an untapped resource of the Kansas economy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dan Grotheer