

GREY2K USA



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*Organization Listing is
for Identification
Purposes Only*

March 20, 2013

Testimony in opposition to House Bill 2168
The Hon. Arlen Siegfried, Chairman, House Committee on State and Federal Affairs

Dear Chairman Siegfried,

I am the executive director of a national non-profit greyhound protection organization named GREY2K USA. We work to pass greyhound protection laws, phase out dog racing and promote greyhound adoption.

On behalf of our more than 40,000 supporters nationwide, I urge you to oppose House Bill 2168. This measure is intended to resuscitate commercial greyhound racing, an industry that is cruel and inhumane and no longer economically viable.

This measure would reduce the tax rate on dog track slot machine gambling. It would also essentially force Sedgwick County to hold another referendum on dog track slot machines, despite the fact that this issue has already been rejected by local voters.

Commercial greyhound racing ended in the state in August 2008 when The Woodlands permanently closed. Ten months earlier, Wichita Greyhound Park closed after voters rejected a proposal to authorize slot machine betting at the facility. In the years leading up the closure of these two tracks, betting on greyhound racing had fallen dramatically. Between 2001 and 2007 the total amount bet on live greyhound racing in Kansas dropped by 57%, from \$30.6 million to \$13.4 million.¹ The fact is, dog racing failed in the state because there was no longer sufficient interest in gambling on greyhound races.

The end of commercial dog racing was a positive development for greyhounds. In the final full year of dog racing, 205 greyhound injuries were reported to state regulators.² Of these, 90 reported injuries involved broken legs.³ In addition, while these racetracks were operational hundreds of greyhounds endured lives of confinement, and were kept in small cages barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around.

Further, every major animal protection organization is opposed to greyhound racing because of industry standard practices that are used to maximize profits while incurring the least amount of cost. These include the use of raw "4-D" meat from downed animals as a primary food source and the use of anabolic steroids to prevent estrus in female greyhounds. We believe these practices go against mainstream humane values.

For the dogs, please reject House Bill 2168. If you have questions about this testimony, please contact me directly at 781-488-3526.

Sincerely,

Carey M. Theil
Executive Director

¹ Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, 2008 Annual Report.

² Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, monthly injury reports for The Woodlands and Wichita Greyhound Park.

³ Ibid.

PROTECTING GREYHOUNDS

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