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February, 29, 2016

TESTIMONY
By
DARON HALL
Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regarding Informational Hearing on
The Effects of Horse and Greyhound Tracks on Commerce in Kansas

March 2, 2016

Dear Chair Hutton and Members of the Committee:

I am Daron Hall, City Manager for the City of Pittsburg, Kansas. I am here today to express the City of Pittsburg's concerns regarding the placement of slot machines at Camptown Racetrack in Crawford County, Kansas.

The track is just two miles north of Pittsburg, and given the prior negative experience with slots at Camptown, we simply do not have the confidence that yet another change in our state's laws will result in anything more than another abandonment of dog racing at Camptown.

Like many others, the City of Pittsburg does not oppose resumption of horse and dog racing in Kansas. However, we do oppose efforts to change a law the track operators agreed to in 2007 in an attempt to tilt the law heavily in their favor.

For more than 15 years, Camptown Racetrack has been abandoned and allowed to fall into total disrepair. There has been no effort by its operator to improve the property for an alternative use or even to simply keep it in good repair. As a result, visitors who travel from the north into Pittsburg, enter our community in full view of a blighted monument to failure. We cannot afford another monument to failure.

The City of Pittsburg also believes that the operation of two state-owned gaming facilities within just a few miles of each other will not result in increased revenues or jobs to the State of Kansas, but rather will transfer a portion of the existing revenues and jobs from one location (Kansas Crossing) to Camptown without any significant net gain to the State, the City of Pittsburg or Crawford County.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter and I am glad to stand for questions.