

Sheila Martinsen  
11332 W. 121st Terrace  
Overland Park, Kansas 66213  
Phone (913) 660-4824

To: Chairman Troy Waymaster and Members of the Committee

From: Sheila Martinsen  
Johnson County Kansas Resident

RE: HB 2173: Oppose Greyhound Racing in Kansas

Date: March 22, 2017

My name is Sheila Martinsen. I have lived and practiced law in Johnson County for over 20 years. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you my concerns regarding the possible return of greyhound racing in Kansas and the reasons I oppose HB 2173.

Greyhound racing failed in Kansas in 2008 after the greyhound tracks in Kansas experienced devastating financial losses. The cause of the failure; consumers voted with their wallets not to support it. In the intervening years, public support for this form of "sport" has eroded even further. There is nothing in the history of Kansas greyhound racing and in prevailing public attitudes today that suggests that almost a decade after it failed, greyhound racing can be resurrected to generate revenue to offset subsidizing the industry.

The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission indicates it would need approximately \$1.8 million and 21.00 FTE positions for each parimutuel racetrack that reopens for the annual costs to regulate both the racing and gaming activities. Start-up costs of approximately \$450,000 per facility would also be needed for expenses, such as background investigations, licensing equipment, software licenses, computer equipment, furniture and supplies, and other expenses that would be associated with reopening each facility. A review of the history of greyhound racing in Kansas and its economic demise in 2008, as well as the inability of several states to successfully subsidize greyhound racing, clearly indicates that greyhound racing will not generate sufficient revenue to offset the costs associated with it and will result in further losses for Kansas and its residents.

In short, it is financially irresponsible for Kansas to allocate funds to attempt to revive an outdated and "dead" sport that Kansas residents don't support and will not result in a return on investment for Kansas residents. Today Kansas faces extremely challenging fiscal issues, I urge you to reject HB 2173 and allocate and focus Kansas resources on compelling needs.