

February 13, 2018

Rep. John Barker
Chairman, House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
State of Kansas Legislature

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION

Dear Chairman Barker:

The American Quarter Horse Association, representing 5,028 members in Kansas, joins the Kansas Quarter Horse Racing Association to express our support of HB 2545.

Racetracks are currently taxed at a substantially higher rate than state-owned casinos, rendering the racetracks unable to operate. HB 2545 creates parity. If passed, HB 2545 would revive the racing industry in Kansas. The added revenue from HB 2545 will provide funding for racetrack operations and lucrative purses, by allowing for a minimum of 400 electronic gaming machines at each racetrack. The income generated will significantly benefit the horse industry as well as the overall economy of Kansas.


As an economically diverse industry, horse owners, industry suppliers, racetracks, horse shows and other competitions, recreational riders and other industry segments all generate economic activity contributing to the industry's vibrancy. The spending generated and the subsequent spending between co-dependent industries contributes thousands of jobs and millions of dollars to the Kansas economy on an annual basis. Restoring horse racing in Kansas will stimulate the entire equine community.

The guarantee of live race days and profitable purses will bring horsemen to Kansas. More race days bring more horses, and better purses ensures better horses, all which makes for better racing. By reviving in-state racing, Kansas breeders will benefit from Kansas bred races, which results in lucrative awards for Kansas breeders.

We need your support to revive horse racing in Kansas. We are asking you to support HB 2545. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 806-378-4362.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Janet VanBebber
Chief Racing Officer
American Quarter Horse Association