

February 10, 2018

RE: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY – House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maureen Bernhagen and I reside in Douglas County, Kansas. Although my county is not an intended site of a racing track I am very opposed to the proposal regarding the return of Greyhound Racing to the State of Kansas.

There are many reasons for this determination aside from the fact it is a dying industry and Kansas at one time determined it to be prohibited. Greyhound racing attendance dwindled nationwide as most states passed laws ending or phasing out the sport. A significant reason being the public chose not to participate in this cruel enterprise. Due to the lack of value this sport would bring to the state just the cost of regulating the industry in Kansas could end up becoming a fiscal negative.

Aside from these points, my main concern is for the Greyhounds. Every year, thousands of young and healthy Greyhound dogs are killed merely because they lack winning potential, were injured while racing or are no longer competitive. In many cases, the dogs are poorly cared for while being housed at the tracks due to lack of proper housing, weather extremes or for not receiving immediate medical attention. While some of these wonderful mild mannered dogs make it to rescue, it has been reported dogs no longer viable for racing in Florida are taken in boats and drowned while alive in the ocean. Others are euthanized, sometimes not humanely and carcasses sold to be made into feed. All of these issues add up to animal cruelty in large numbers.

Please beware that PETA and HSUS are aware of these atrocities and follow the sport making the public aware of circumstances of consequence. It's shameful that routine cruelty leading to the deaths of these beautiful dogs is considered a reasonable consequence of a legal sport. That it still happens is a national shame, and whether by market pressures or the power of our voices, **it must end.** Please OPPOSE HB 2545!

Respectfully,

Maureen Bernhagen

Lawrence, Kansas

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