

3/3/2023

Kansas Legislature

HB2434

To whom it may concern:

I am in support of HB 2434 that would allot 3% of gross bets to be given to Kansas Breeders Development Fund and to the County Fair Horse Racing Fund. This would allow for the Eureka Downs to be reopened and have a huge impact on the economy of our town and Kansas. There has been a sharp decrease in the number of horses in our region since the closure of the track. There is no incentive for Kansas horsemen to continue to breed and raise horses in Kansas as the industry is gone. I am a veterinarian in Eureka, Kansas and the impact this would have on my business would be astronomical. I currently employ 2 other veterinarians besides myself and would easily have room for 1-2 more if this bill were to pass. The amount of business this would bring to not only myself but also my community would be drastic and much needed. I am also President of the Greenwood County Fair Association. This association is in charge of the Eureka Downs facility. Since the discontinuation of horse racing this facility has set empty until last year when the PRCA rodeo was hosted there. Seeing people at the facility again made the building come alive! It was great to see all the excitement of people seeing it again and many seeing it for the first time. Without this bill passing the facility will continue to degrade as there is no money to refurbish or reenvision the facility. Our hopes as a board and a community is to get the building back in its prime and to be used as it was intended which is a horse racing facility. This will only happen if the HB is passed. The thought of having hundreds of horses in the community, thousands of people every month visiting and the economic impact this would have on Southeast Kansas should be enough for everyone to vote yes on this bill. There really is no downside! Please vote yes to HB 2434.

Sincerely,

Kailey Fitzmorris, DVM, President of GCFA

Flyin' 3 Veterinary Service

Eureka, KS