

March 7, 2023

TO: House Taxation Committee

RE: Support of HB 2434

FROM: Rita Osborn (KQHRA)

Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

AND THEY'RE OFF.... Famous words from Eureka Downs Horse Racing announcers. Let's hear those words again!

The Kansas Quarter Horse Racing Association, (KQHRA) is in support of HB 2434.

For many years, the KQHRA operated and maintained Eureka Downs. With the passing of HB 2434, the KQHRA and Greenwood County Fair are looking forward to "teaming up" again with Eureka Downs and an entity that would allow live horse racing back in Kansas.

Facts: In 1963, the Kansas Quarter Horse Racing Association was formed and started the running of the Kansas Bred Futurity and Derby for horses bred in Kansas. In 1966, Above Par 2 won the Kansas Bred Futurity and went on in 1967 to become the American Quarter Horse Association Racing Champion three-year-old Colt of the year. Mighty Deck Three, 1980 AQHA Racing Champion two-year-old, equaled the world record with a time of 16:49 for 330 yards in the Flinthills Futurity Finals on May 11, 1980. He also won the Northeast Kansas Quarter Horse Assn. Futurity, the Rainbow Futurity and ran second in the All-American Futurity in 1980.

Kansas was top-ranked in the nation in production of running Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds in the 80's. The KQHRA was a well-respected organization with members from all over the United States and Hawaii. The KQHRA was one of the first states to hold a stallion auction. The money raised from the auction was used as purse money to run prestigious races at Eureka Downs. The races then moved to a bigger facility to accommodate the number of horses that were entered. The Woodlands, Ruidoso, New Mexico and Claremore, Oklahoma were racetracks that held Kansas bred races.

Why is this information important: With the passing of HB 2434, this would allow the Champion Horses, Trainers and Jockeys, to return to a state that once provided income to Kansas. This bill allows gambling to work for an industry of the breeders, owners, trainers and many businesses in the state.

I ask you to support HB 2434.

Rita Osborn, KQHRA President  
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