



Dear Chair Klevorn and Members of the Committee:

I write today on behalf of the Minnesota Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and the hundreds of jobs, livelihoods, and supportive services that HF2000 will negatively impact, and thus ask you reject said bill in its current form.

If legalized, sports betting will directly impact the current limited gaming options available to the horseracing industry including, but not limited to, the \$60 million wagered annually on horse racing via online Advance Deposit Wagering. As reference, this figure is ten times what is wagered on-site at Canterbury Park. An online wagering competitor like sports betting will have a uniquely and severe adverse consequence for our industry.

Purse money is generated through wagering on our races and is the foremost driver of the racing industry, which generates over a \$400 million economic impact for the State of Minnesota each year. This impact directly touches our agriculture, hospitality, tourism, real estate, and retail industries, among others. Horse racing from Canterbury Park is also one of the State's largest exporters with over \$80 million wagered annually on its races by out of state players.

There is a direct correlation between the amount of purse money available and the quality of racing presented at Canterbury Park. If sports betting is legalized, without any consideration for the racing industry, it will be extremely difficult for thoroughbred racing to continue to exist at Canterbury Park. We cannot conduct racing with seven hundred horses that cost \$12.5 million to care for while competing for \$5 million in purses. Horses will simply stop coming to Minnesota.

We cannot compete with tracks in other states that allow racing to participate in sports betting and other types of revenue streams. They will go to Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and other states where purses are enhanced by sports betting and other gaming options.

If legislators and the State of Minnesota's policies continue to restrict our industry from these revenue streams and the ability to compete in a free and open market, we simply ask that some of the tax revenue be directed to offset the losses that will be incurred.

We would like to thank Representative Stephenson and other members of the Legislature for the many discussions on this topic, but at this time we oppose HF 2000, as it is currently written, and implore this committee to simply do no further harm to our industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Revak".

Justin Revak, President