



May 19, 2022

Dear Finance Committee members:

Minnesota Harness Racing, Inc (MHRI) appreciates the opportunity to share our support for the A22 amendment to HF778, the sports betting bill before the Finance Committee today. MHRI represents the drivers, trainers, owners and grooms who work in the Minnesota Standardbred industry. Our horses race at both Running Aces and select county fairs across the state.

In addition to the employees at the track and the employees at the farms that breed, raise and board our Standardbreds, the horse racing industry in Minnesota supports the farmers who grow the hay and grain we feed our horses, the feed stores who stock and distribute the feed, the veterinarians who help keep our horses in good health, the farriers who shoe our horses and a myriad of smaller businesses who rely on horse racing for their incomes.

Thank you for including the two tracks as mobile sports betting license holders along with the language that dedicates a portion of the track's sports betting revenue to our purses. The inclusion will help to ensure the harness racing industry in Minnesota is able to continue to have a positive economic impact in the state.

Horse racing in Minnesota is already at a competitive disadvantage with many racing jurisdictions around the country. As gaming options such as racinos, historical race wagering and mobile sports betting have expanded, many states across the country with horse racing tracks within their borders have tied a portion of the revenue from the new forms of gaming to purses, which has exponentially increased the purse sizes at these tracks. This directly affects the number of and quality of horses that race at our tracks.

If the tribal communities have an exclusive to the mobile sports betting market, it will further put Running Aces at a disadvantage with the tracks it competes with across the country for horses to race. This starts a downward cycle for the track—if quality fields of horses are not racing because the purses aren't competitive, bettors will choose to take their money elsewhere, which further diminishes our available purse money.

Thank you for your support of our horse community in Minnesota; we ask that you please continue your support of our industry by keeping the tracks as mobile sports betting licensees as the bill moves to a vote in the full Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Justin Anfinson
President, MHRI