



April 7, 2024

Senator Kari Dziedzic, Chair
Members of the State and Local Government and Veterans Committee

RE: Opposition to SF5354 – Conduct of advance deposit wagering, card playing, and pari-mutuel betting provided; definitions provided; and clarifying and conforming changes made

Dear Chair Dziedzic,

We would like to express our concerns regarding SF5354 and note the detrimental impact it could have on both Canterbury Park and the community of Shakopee should this bill become law.

Canterbury Park provides racing and entertainment to over 300,000 patrons. The Shakopee Chamber of Commerce has data that states that of the people visiting large attractions to Shakopee, over 38% of them spend money on food, nearly 12% spend money on retail, and nearly 10% spend money on gas and service stations in the local community. Additionally, during the live racing season, Canterbury Park employs over 1,000 personnel. Passage of the bill in its current form could significantly impact the viability of one of Shakopee's premier destinations that brings millions of dollars into the local community and provides employment to many underserved and underrepresented in Scott County.

Additionally, over 65% of visitors to Shakopee come from outside Minnesota. Gross sales for leisure and hospitality in Minnesota in 2022 was \$18.3 billion and \$1.2 billion in sales taxes. As a result, nearly \$1,000 in taxes were saved per household by visitor-generated spending in Minnesota. The passage of the bill in its current form would harm many of our small businesses in retail and hospitality in addition to our residents. When our attractions are allowed to thrive, our entire community thrives.

We strongly urge you to reconsider SF5354.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Tim Zunker, written in a cursive style.

Tim Zunker, President
Shakopee Chamber & Visitors Bureau

A black ink signature of Angie Whitcomb, written in a cursive style.

Angie Whitcomb, President & CEO
Hospitality Minnesota

Cc: Representative Brad Tabke
Senator Eric Pratt