



Senator Fount Hawj
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2812, Pratt: Minnesota's thoroughbred racing culture support appropriation.

Dear Chair Hawj, Lead Green, and members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear SF2812, a bill to support Minnesota's thoroughbred racing culture appropriating \$1,000,000 in FY 26 and \$1,000,000 in FY27 to Canterbury Park to support Minnesota's cultural heritage of thoroughbred racing by expanding opportunities at the racetrack for Minnesota racehorses.

For the 39 years we have been open, Canterbury Park has been an economic and entertainment hub in the state. Unfortunately, purses have declined in the last few years, which has had a significant impact on the racing industry. The decrease in purses has caused some horse owners and horse breeders to move to other states to race or exit the business entirely. The funds in this bill would not make our purses whole; they would make a significant impact to help get our purses to more competitive against other national racetracks.

While things have been difficult in recent years for the racing industry, there are many things that keep us optimistic and excited about our future. We are counting down to the start of summer racing season which begins May 24, 2025. We look forward to the opening of the new outdoor amphitheater, which will hold over 19,000 people and attract Minnesotans from across the state to attend shows at Canterbury Park. What makes us the most excited however, is thinking about horse trainers, horse breeders, veterinarians, jockeys, and their families who will return to Canterbury Park this spring. They are the people that this funding would support—their livelihoods depend on increased purses.

This bill demonstrates Minnesota's commitment to racing and the horse industry, matches the steps taken in other states. Increased purses will attract more horses and investment in local breeding and training. Thank you for considering this critical investment in the racing industry.

Sincerely,

Randy Sampson

CEO, Canterbury Park