Chair Klein
G15 Minnesota State Capitol
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 22, 2026

Re: SF4474, Rasmusson: Online sweepstakes games prohibition provision.

Dear Chair Klein, Vice Chair Seeberger, Ranking Member Dahms, and members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear SF4474, a bill to prohibit online sweepstakes games. Canterbury Park is proud to be part of Minnesota's legalized gaming market. Protecting the future of Minnesota's thoroughbred and quarter horse racing industry is central to Canterbury Park's mission and the broader economic health of our region. Canterbury Park operates within a tightly regulated gaming framework designed to support live racing, preserve jobs, and sustain the agricultural community that depends on it. The unchecked growth of unregulated online sweepstakes gambling threatens this system.

Online sweepstakes casinos operate by offering casino-style gambling without meeting the regulatory standards required of licensed operators. This creates an uneven playing field where unlicensed operators compete directly with Minnesota's legal gaming industry while avoiding the safeguards that protect consumers.

Canterbury Park's card casino was authorized by the legislature to support purses and the horse industry. It is subject to significant regulatory limitations that online sweepstakes are not, including:

- Statutory betting limits within games;
- Statutory limits on the number of table games that may be offered at Canterbury Park; and
- Regulations on the types of table games that Canterbury Park may offer.

Canterbury Park is proud to be a long-standing economic engine for Shakopee and the surrounding region. Our operations support thousands of jobs, generate significant local and state revenue, and help sustain Minnesota's horse racing industry. However, the rapid growth of unregulated online sweepstakes gambling is drawing Minnesotans away from licensed gaming at locations like Canterbury Park. As more people turn to place bets with unregulated gaming operators, our on-site revenues decline at the very moment when purse support is already under significant pressure.

If this trend continues, the financial foundation that supports live racing in Minnesota will erode. Minnesota's racing industry depends on a healthy, regulated gaming environment, and unregulated online gambling threatens to destabilize the system by diverting dollars to operators who contribute nothing to our state. Allowing these platforms to expand unchecked puts the entire racing industry at risk, from the horses and trainers to the agricultural and hospitality jobs that rely on a strong racing industry.

For these reasons, it is more important than ever to protect Minnesota's regulated gaming market. Prohibiting unregulated online sweepstakes gambling will help ensure that Canterbury Park and the thousands of Minnesotans who depend on the racing industry can continue to support our state.

Sincerely,

Randy Sampson, CEO, Canterbury Park

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