



February 7, 2022

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States, Humane Voters Oregon, and Animal Legal Defense Fund, we respectfully urge your support for SB 1504 which would prohibit greyhound racing in Oregon and commercial greyhound racing through Advance Deposit Wagering.

Oregon is an outlier as one of a handful of states that continues to allow Advance Deposit Wagering companies to process bets that prop up foreign dog tracks, like Agua Caliente in Tijuana, which is known as one of the worst dog tracks in the world.

By allowing Advance Deposit Wagering, Oregon continues to prop up a dying industry and further perpetuates and contributes to its cruel practices. Some international tracks, particularly those in Mexico and Vietnam, do not publish injury or outcome reports for the dogs raced in those countries and are consistently recognized as problematic from an animal welfare perspective.

By January 2023 there will only be a handful of active dog tracks throughout the entire United States. In fact, West Virginia, Arkansas, and Iowa were, until recently, the only states where live greyhound racing was legal and remained operational, with the latter two states in the process of shutting down.

Racing events lead to an unacceptable level of animal exploitation and suffering solely for profit. At dog tracks nationwide, greyhounds routinely suffer serious injuries. According to Grey2K, the world's largest greyhound protection organization, between 2010 and 2019 a total of 10,977 greyhound injuries have been documented. The most reported injury was a broken leg. Other injuries included head trauma, electrocution, and broken backs.

Racing greyhounds endure lives of terrible confinement. They live inside warehouse-style kennels in rows of stacked cages that are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around. Often confined for 20 to 23 hours each day, with only shredded paper or carpet remnants as bedding in kennels barely large enough for some greyhounds to stand up or turn around.

The National Greyhound Association and its affiliates have a history of covering up cases of misconduct and animal neglect, have shown a double standard in their treatment toward certain industry figures, and displayed a lack of willingness to press charges against offenders.

The racing industry promotes and tolerates an overproduction of dogs, resulting in an annual surplus numbering in the thousands, many of whom will end up being destroyed.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of HB 1504.

Sincerely,

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