

Submitter: Nikolas Papailiou

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3020

I currently manage an Off-track betting location in the Portland metro area. Greyhound racing consists of nearly 40% of the off-track betting revenue we generate. HB3020 poses a significant threat to my location. The lost revenue would directly impact my ability to operate my business and nearly instantaneously require me to terminate employment positions within my staff.

I would further like to express that greyhound racing, despite its strict protocols for safety and animal welfare, is undoubtedly losing national popularity. Multnomah Greyhound Park was considered a top-tier track within the early 90's and we saw the slow decline as Oregon Lottery introduced video lottery terminals. The same correlation is happening nationally. Greyhound racing has diminished to two tracks nationally, both coincidentally in West Virginia. Both of which are still generating impressive handles over \$500 million dollars globally per year.

It would make the most logical sense to propose an overall end-date of greyhound wagering in 2040 within the state of Oregon. This amount of time would be required for me to offset my long term loses. The additional time would also allow us to organically allow greyhound wagering to phase itself out (average greyhound bettor at my location is age 65) it would allow me to invest in new wagering alternatives, and promote thoroughbred racing.

Kindly,
Nikolas Papailiou