

Submitter: Richard Scheidt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3020

Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 3020 concerning Greyhound Racing in our state.

As you discuss the implications of this legislation, it is crucial to look beyond mere revenue figures from wagering. We must also consider the local impact on food and beverage sales and the challenges in transitioning Greyhound players to Horse Racing. Greyhound Racing holds significant historical and community value in Oregon, fostering entertainment and camaraderie.

The cessation of Greyhound Racing extends beyond wagering revenues to affect local businesses, particularly in food and beverage sectors. These racing events serve as social hubs, drawing patrons who support local establishments. For instance, recent cancellations due to adverse weather on the east coast disrupted both racing schedules and local business operations, revealing the intertwined nature of Greyhound Racing with community commerce.

I urge you, should you move forward with HB 3020, to extend the effective date to 2030 or beyond. This extension will provide OTB Operators ample time to plan for revenue losses and their broader consequences.

I ask members of this committee to carefully deliberate on HB 3020, weighing its impacts on our state's economy, local businesses, and wagering enthusiasts.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.