



PHHA LEGISLATIVE ALERT – September 24, 2009

CALLING ALL PHHA MEMBERS, HORSEMEN,
ANYONE IN EQUINE AGRI-BUSINESS AND
ALL WHO CARE ABOUT PA RACING:
**CONTACT YOUR STATE REP AND STATE
SENATOR IMMEDIATELY.**

THE ISSUE:

Despite our efforts during the past two months, the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund is under new attack by the state house and senate. There are reports that certain members are planning to cut it severely by tapping into it for four consecutive years in a desperate attempt to help balance the state budget. At the same time, table games, if passed, may or may not negatively effect slot revenue and reduce purses even further. The PHHA supports the passage of table game legislation because it is good for the overall financial health of state casinos, which in turn helps provide a more stable foundation for us. However, a cut to the Race Horse Development fund would cause Pennsylvania to immediately become non-competitive with neighboring states and could lead to the collapse of Pennsylvania racing, its infrastructure and related businesses.

THE SOLUTION:

Do not hesitate. Contact both your local state representative and senator immediately and educate them on the points below. Most importantly, that the Pennsylvania racing industry is vital to our state's financial health. The legislation that created the Race Horse Development Fund has had a tremendous positive impact on attracting investment and creating jobs in a bad economy. If the Racing Fund is cut, it will create disastrous long-term harm for questionable short-term benefits.

CALL TO ACTION:

Please e-mail AND place a phone call to your local representative and state senator asking them NOT TO SUPPORT any cuts to the Race Horse Development Fund. Explain to them that:

- **The Fund created by Act 71 is succeeding as intended.** We have a successful, viable model thanks to Act 71 and the ongoing innovation, initiative and competitiveness it has spurred.
- **Table games may or may not have a negative impact on racing revenues. We support their passage anyway and are willing to risk a sacrifice for the good of the state.** However, we cannot survive a significant cut to the Race Horse Development Fund.
- **The total economic impact of PA Racing is in the hundreds of millions of dollars,** and tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians owe their livelihoods to the sport directly or indirectly.

- **Pennsylvania has become the nation's top destination for harness racing professionals, offering what many feel is the highest-quality racing product in the country.** (This is notable because Act 71 didn't offer PA any exceptional advantages compared to similar legislation in other states. We simply did a better job of leveraging the benefits.)
- **It creates good jobs in a bad economy** – not only in the agricultural sector (trainers, grooms, veterinarians, tack and feed shops, tractor and trailer dealers) but also at the venues (management, security guards, food and beverage, etc.) It will create even more jobs as our economy recovers.
- **It boosts our economy.** Investment comes not only from within our state, but also from other states across the nation and as far away as Europe and Australia. This is money we would never otherwise see, and it is being spent on expansion, real estate and agricultural supplies, human resources, etc.
- **It allowed for one new harness track to be built** (Harrah's Chester Casino & Racetrack), one to be expanded (Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs) and yet another to go into development (Valley View Downs) since the legislation took effect. The existing harness tracks in PA employ hundreds of people in racing alone.
- **Act 71 was not a "bailout."** Rather, it was intended to ease our competitive disadvantage with neighboring states that already had venues combining casino gaming with racing.
- **Act 71 was just beginning to show significant results** when the economy plunged into a recession. Even so, harness racing revenues dipped only slightly, proving that we are on the right track.
- **We have raised the profile of Pennsylvania harness racing by leaps and bounds** on the national scene. If Act 71 takes a hit, it will immediately turn back the clock ten years and drive all of these economic benefits we currently to neighboring states. In short, it will help make a bad economy worse.
- **Most importantly, NOW IS NOT THE TIME to do long-term and irreparable harm to one of our state's vital industries,** especially as it is in the process of rebounding. If we do, we will hurt our economy on a wide-ranging basis and never know how much economic good might have been done.

WHAT TO DO:

Don't wait. Call and e-mail today. Things happen quickly in Harrisburg and given the desperate mood, there is serious danger that decisions could be made in haste.

Don't know your local state rep? Visit:

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/representatives_alpha.cfm and enter your zip code in the box at the top right to locate your local rep.

Don't know your state senator? Visit:

<http://www.pasen.gov/> and enter your zip code in the box at the top right to locate the senator in your district and contact information.

--- PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL CONCERNED ---