

Horse Racing Committee

Public Hearing

May 14, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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B**B****BUTTERS BRAZILIAN LLP**

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May 5, 2020

Chairman Brian Fitzgerald
Commissioner Gayle Cameron, MGC Representative
Peter Goldberg, Standardbred Representative
Joe Savage, Thoroughbred Representative
Emily Kowtoniuk, Treasurer's Representative
Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Comments on Potential Adjustment to the Split Mandated Under
G.L. c. 23K, § 60, and 205 CMR 149, *et seq.*

Dear Chairman Fitzgerald and Horse Racing Committee Members:

As the Horse Racing Committee considers the split of the Race Horse Development Fund (the "Fund"), I write on behalf of a group led by Armand P.P. Janjigian ("Janjigian Group") that is developing a thoroughbred horse park and racetrack in Sturbridge, Massachusetts (the "Project"). I write again to ask that you maintain the current split between the standardbred and thoroughbred associations. I urge the Horse Racing Committee to adhere strictly to G.L. c. 23K, § 60, and 205 C.M.R. 149, *et seq.*, which compels the 80/16/4 breakdown for each association. Among other considerations, the current pandemic has exacerbated the uncertainty of when live racing will resume. With such an uncertain future, the current split should remain in effect. Finally, as described below, with such a promising project on the horizon, maintaining the split now would be an investment in the people working in the thoroughbred industry for years to come.

The Sturbridge Project

The Janjigian Group is developing a first-class horse park and racetrack set on approximately 225 acres of undeveloped land in Sturbridge, Massachusetts (the "Premises"), the facility would merge the excitement of live racing with a pastoral setting in which racehorses, both past and present, live their lives.

Since the execution this fall of the agreement securing the Premises, the Janjigian Group, along with its team of professionals, have been planning and generating local support for the

horse park and racetrack. Local counsel has been diligently gathering momentum and excitement for the project in and around the Town of Sturbridge (the "Town"). The local response has been broadly positive. The Project requires a zoning amendment and local counsel has been working closely with the Town to carefully draft the amendment to suit the Janjigian Group's specific needs while balancing potential concerns of the Town. Because of the pandemic, an April Board of Selectmen meeting has been postponed. Thus, the Janjigian Group awaits the next Board of Selectmen meeting to obtain approval for this amendment. Once the Board approves the amendment, the Janjigian Group will continue to push forward through the racetrack planning and developmental approval process.

The Project is being designed with the livelihood of the thoroughbred community at the forefront. Notably, the Janjigian Group is not seeking a slot parlor license, which would require a landscape-altering legislative change. The Project includes a first-class setting and high-quality mile long track that will benefit both the horses and their riders. The Janjigian Group expects to complete the Project in phases, first building the track, barns and temporary viewing pavilion. The next phase will be construction of permanent stands and concessions. Finally, there will be construction of a racehorse retirement facility.

Even with local support and the support of the area horsemen associations, the Project needs to be profitable in order to be sustainable. A revision to the split of the Fund would undercut the economic viability of the project. As you know, the Expanded Gaming Act was a jobs bill. The Project will create and maintain jobs in a thoroughbred racing community that had high hopes for, but has in fact been hard hit by, the Expanded Gaming Act. Indeed, with the recent closure of live racing at Suffolk Downs there is an opportunity to build something new to support the existing workforce. This Project will succeed if the Horse Racing Committee supports the current funding split under the authority of G.L. c. 23K, § 60, thus ensuring that when the Janjigian Group builds its horse park and racetrack in Sturbridge, the thoroughbred community will be there to make it the vibrant and attractive destination that it intends to be.

Purpose of the Race Horse Development Fund

The Race Horse Development Fund is funded by taxes on gross gaming revenue from Category 1 and Category 2 licenses. The Fund receives 2.5% of the tax from Category 1 licenses, MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor, and 18% of the tax from the Category 2 license, Plainridge Park Casino. An essential component of catalyzing a resurgence in thoroughbred racing in Massachusetts is a robust Race Horse Development Fund that benefits the thoroughbred racing industry. The Fund helps racetrack operators to attract competitive horses, owners, jockeys, and trainers, and at this critical stage in the Project's development, key investors that will make the Project economically feasible.

The purpose of the Fund – development – is essential to the future of the thoroughbred racing industry in Massachusetts. The Expanded Gaming Act had unintended consequences for

the ecosystem of horse racing in Massachusetts. It turned the industry upside down by leading to the end of thoroughbred racing at Suffolk Downs and the reinvigoration of standardbred racing at Plainridge Park Casino. The Janjigian Group applauds the success of the standardbred community and the success of Plainridge Park Casino. Penn National holds the only slot parlor license available in Massachusetts, marrying this exclusive concession with the pre-existing standardbred racetrack. Maintaining the existing split serves to similarly induce success for the thoroughbred community through the development of the Janjigian Group's horse park and racetrack. This standalone facility, and the thoroughbred industry more broadly, would enjoy a similar mutually beneficial arrangement catalyzed by the development funds that the thoroughbred association currently receives.

Conclusion

With the development of the Janjigian Group's new thoroughbred racetrack on the horizon, and the pandemic halting all racing in the short-term, now is not the time for change to the Fund. Any change would be more detrimental than useful both in the short-term and long-term for the future of thoroughbred racing. On behalf of a group that intends to restore thoroughbred racing in Massachusetts, I ask that you maintain the current split, thereby caring for the people and horses in both the standardbred *and* thoroughbred communities, and not sacrificing opportunities for the thoroughbred community that so far have been elusive, but are now within reach. Once there are facilities for both standardbred and thoroughbred, and a clear picture of what the future holds, that would be the time to revisit the split.

I look forward to working with the Horse Racing Committee as this Project develops.

Yours Truly,

Pat Hanley

CC: Armand P.P. Janjigian
Sarah Tricot, *Attorney, Murphy & King P.C.*
Paul Umbrello, *Executive Director, New England Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Inc.*

The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to define the problem. This involves identifying the symptoms of the problem and determining the scope of the problem. Once the problem has been defined, the next step is to identify the causes of the problem. This involves identifying the factors that are contributing to the problem and determining the relationships between these factors. The final step in the process is to develop a solution to the problem. This involves identifying the options available and determining the best option for the situation.

Introduction

With the development of the computer, the way we think about problems has changed. In the past, problems were often seen as a series of steps to be followed in a linear fashion. However, with the development of the computer, problems are now often seen as a complex system of interconnected parts. This has led to the development of new methods for solving problems, such as the use of algorithms and the development of artificial intelligence. The purpose of this paper is to explore the ways in which the development of the computer has changed the way we think about problems and to discuss the implications of these changes.

The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to define the problem. This involves identifying the symptoms of the problem and determining the scope of the problem. Once the problem has been defined, the next step is to identify the causes of the problem. This involves identifying the factors that are contributing to the problem and determining the relationships between these factors. The final step in the process is to develop a solution to the problem. This involves identifying the options available and determining the best option for the situation.

Conclusion

The development of the computer has changed the way we think about problems and has led to the development of new methods for solving problems. This has had a profound impact on the way we live and work and will continue to have a significant impact in the future.



May 7, 2020

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee
101 Federal Street
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Race-Horse Development Fund Split

Dear Members of the Committee:

I write in advance of the Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee's ("HRC") meeting on May 14, 2020.

As the HRC is aware the Notos Group, LLC ("Notos" or "we") has announced its plan to develop a thoroughbred racing facility in Wareham, MA. The facility is intended to be a new home for the thoroughbred racing and breeding industries in the Commonwealth. We are striving to save these statewide industries, which once generated hundreds of millions of dollars and created thousands of jobs throughout the Commonwealth.

The Race-Horse Development Fund ("RHDF") is critical to our mission to save the horse racing industry. As the HRC is aware, developing and building a racetrack is difficult and costly. In order for this racetrack to be built, we need to preserve as much as possible in the RHDF to fund future purses. Even with the prior unused allocation that was made to the thoroughbred industry, the thoroughbred industry would not have more than 30 days of purses available when our facility opens.

The HRC has posed two topics for public comment.

1. Consideration of the present percentage between each of those three separate categories considered for distribution.

I would refer the HRC to M.G.L. 23K §60 and its October 24, 2014 memorandum ("HRC Memorandum") regarding RHDF allocation (a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A) setting forth the relevant factors for determining the allocation. Based on the submissions by the standardbred industry and thoroughbred industry in early 2020, and the data released by the Racing Division, it appears that for the relevant historical factors there was no substantive difference between 2018 and 2019 with respect to the performance of the thoroughbred and

Horse Racing Committee
May 7, 2020

standardbred industries in the Commonwealth. Accordingly, Notos would defer to the HRC's judgment in 2019 regarding RHDF allocation as that decision was based on the same data.

Furthermore, at the present time, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is no current funding mechanism for the RHDF or live racing scheduled for either breed. Accordingly, we would suggest that because the HRC has no insight as to the level of funding for the RHDF in 2020 or the future purse needs for each industry due to the lack of racing and gaming in the Commonwealth, it would be extremely difficult for the HRC to make any informed adjustments to the allocation at this time.

2. Potential adjustment to the method of calculating the distribution percentage (split) between the breeds for purposes of funding purses, breeding programs, and health and welfare benefits.

As the HRC is aware, the thoroughbred racing and breeding industries have been struggling in Massachusetts with the closure of Suffolk Downs. We strongly believe that these industries can be revived in Massachusetts. Indeed, during the Covid-19 pandemic, some thoroughbred racetracks have remained open in the United States. Many more racetracks will be opening in the next week and ADW account openings have tripled for certain ADW companies in the past few weeks as thoroughbred racing is the only gaming available to many residents of different states.

We believe the HRC and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("MGC") need as much flexibility as necessary in supporting the thoroughbred breeding and racing industries to reinvigorate those industries in Massachusetts. Accordingly, we have no concerns with the HRC adjusting its method of calculating the distribution percentage if it and the MGC believe it is in the interest of both the standardbred and thoroughbred industries to do so.

As noted above, however, we do strongly believe that in order to maintain the viability of our proposed racetrack, additional funding needs to flow into the thoroughbred breeding program, health and welfare programs and purse programs so that we can be certain that we have purse funds to race for when our track opens and a breeding program that will be able to fill Mass-bred races.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Thomas O'Connell

Exhibit A

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The following information was obtained from a confidential source who has provided reliable information in the past. It is being provided to you for your information only and should not be disseminated to any other person without the express written consent of the FBI. This information is being provided to you for your information only and should not be disseminated to any other person without the express written consent of the FBI.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS HORSE RACING COMMITTEE

DECISION AND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 23K, section 60, establishes a Horse Racing Committee ("Committee") charged with evaluating the state of the horse racing industry in the Commonwealth and making a recommendation to the Legislature and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on the distribution of funds from the newly established Racehorse Development Fund¹. The funds are to be distributed between the thoroughbred and standardbred racing industries in the Commonwealth. These two segments of the Commonwealth's racing industry, while similar in many aspects, experience many differences including, but not limited to, breeding and training practices, farm size and locations, and their respective economic impacts on the Commonwealth.

The Racehorse Development Fund was established to support the racing industry in the Commonwealth. The monies in the development fund are derived from gaming and simulcasting activities within the Commonwealth. Pursuant to G.L. c.23K, §60(c), the funds are to be divided between the thoroughbred and standardbred accounts, with 80% of the funds distributed into purse accounts, 16% of the funds distributed to support breeding programs, and 4% of the funds are to be used to fund health and pension benefits for the members of the horsemen's organizations.

The Horse Racing Committee consists of the following five members: the Chairwoman, Dr. Deborah Kochevar, as the designee of the Governor; Francis Orlando as the designee of the Treasurer; Commissioner Gayle Cameron, as the designee of the Gaming Commission; Attorney Frank Frisoli, appointed by the New England Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association and the Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeding Program; and Attorney Peter Goldberg, appointed by the Harness Horseman's Association of New England and the Massachusetts Standardbred Breeding Program. The Committee held its first meeting on August 10th, 2012 under the direction of Chairman John Sherman, the initial designee of the Governor. Chairman Sherman chaired the Committee until December of 2012 when he resigned from the position. The Committee met 3 times between August and December 2012. No meetings were held from December 2012 until April of 2013, when Dr. Deborah Kochevar was appointed as the new Chairwoman of the committee. Since that date, the Committee has met approximately once per month and extensively evaluated and discussed the statutory criteria set forth in section 60, namely, (1) the average purses awarded at thoroughbred and standardbred racing facilities; (2) the total employment numbers, both direct and indirect, attributable to each horse racing industry; (3) the relative needs of each horse racing industry for increased purses; (4) the amount of the live racing handle generated by each horse racing industry; and (5) the number of breeding and training farms of each industry that are located in the commonwealth². The statute does not

¹ Established in M.G.L. c.23K, §60(a), the Racehorse Development Fund is administered by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

² M.G.L. c.23K, §60(b).

limit the Committee to the five criteria listed but due to the broadness of the criteria the Committee did not find it necessary to add additional, separate factors for consideration.

With the assistance of students from Cummings School of Veterinary at Tufts University and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, the Committee conducted a statewide survey on the breeding and training farms in the state of Massachusetts. The survey was conducted by contacting, and subsequently visiting, a list of farms in the Commonwealth provided by the Committee member representatives of the thoroughbred and standardbred industries. Due to various challenges, the final farm survey portrayed that the students were only able to make contact and collect data from 71 farms from the list of 145. The sample was not homogenous and did not provide the Committee with more accurate or informative information as that collected and provided by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

In March of 2014 the Committee hired Dr. Margaret A Ray, of the University of Mary Washington, as an industry expert to review the statistical data from Massachusetts pertaining to both thoroughbred and standardbred horses and racing and to provide the committee with an economic analysis to aid in determining the appropriate distribution of the funds. The Committee provided Dr. Ray with numerous committee-approved reports and statistics for her analysis. Dr. Ray's report relied solely upon data provided to her by the Committee. The Committee did not provide Dr. Ray with any recommendations on the appropriate weight to be given to each statutory criterion. Dr. Ray, in reviewing all the materials provided to her, prepared a report for the Committee with an economic analysis of the industry in Massachusetts and her recommendation was that 85-90% of the Race Horse Development Fund be allocated to the thoroughbred industry with the balance to the standardbred industry.

The Committee carefully reviewed and discussed numerous reports and memos provided by each industry, by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, and by Dr. Ray. The Committee also solicited and considered public comment on the weight that should be given to each factor and the final percentage split.

Accordingly, the Committee makes the following findings and recommendations:

- 1) In order to best aid each industry, and to yield the greatest return to the Commonwealth, the Committee, upon a 3-2 vote, recommends the following split: 75% of the fund to be distributed to the thoroughbred racing industry and 25% to be distributed to the standardbred racing industry.
- 2) This recommended split is to be reassessed on an annual basis. The Committee will meet in October of each calendar year to review the distribution of the Race Horse Development Fund. If the Committee finds it necessary to meet additional times throughout the year it may do so upon request of at least three members of the Committee to the Chair that a meeting be called.
- 3) In reviewing the split at each annual meeting, the Committee will assess the following benchmarks in order to assess the split with regards to the health of the industry:

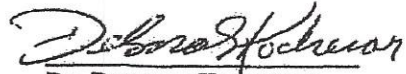
The statutory criteria:

1. The average purses awarded at thoroughbred and standardbred racing facilities;
 2. The total employment numbers, both direct and indirect, attributable to each horse racing industry;
 3. The relative needs of each horse racing industry for increased purses;
 4. The amount of the live racing handle generated by each horse racing industry;
 5. The number of breeding and training farms of each industry that are located in the Commonwealth; and
 6. Such other criteria as determined by the Committee and consistent with the statute, including but not limited to:
 - A. Pool size;
 - B. Field size;
 - C. Number of live race days and total races;
 - D. Number of Mass-bred starters ;
 - E. Number of Mass-bred starts;
 - F. Amount of Mass-bred purses earned;
 - G. Number of restricted Mass-bred races;
 - H. Number of W2 and 1099 employees;
 - I. Capital expenditures to racing facilities;
 - J. Gross terminal revenue on live race days vs. non-live race days at the Category 2 Gaming Facilities;
 - K. Number and types of occupational licensees;
 - L. Number of stallions, mares, and foals residing in Mass;
 - M. Number of breeders registered with relevant breed organizations;
 - N. Number and average sale price of MA- bred horses sold at public auction;
 - O. Such other criteria consistent with the statute.
- 4) The committee will provide an annual report assessing the above data with an annual recommendation of the percentage split of the Race Horse Development Fund to the legislature and the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.
- 5) The Committee further recommends the Gaming Commission draft the necessary regulations to address the use of the funds in the Race Horse Development Fund in the situation where one of the breeds is no longer racing due to lack of racing facilities. The Committee recommends that such regulations should provide for the allocated amount for that breed to continue to be collected and held in an escrow account for three fiscal years to allow for and encourage the development of new facilities to ensure the continued racing of that breed.³

³ MGC staff evaluated several other jurisdictions and found that most provided separate funds for each breed with specific allocations to each fund. Most jurisdictions do not appear to allow the funds from one breed to be redistributed to a different breed of racing if that breed were to cease racing for any period of time.

However, a similar escrow system does exist in Michigan. *See*, M.C.L.A. 413.319a. The Michigan statute allows for escrowing of development funds in the event that a thoroughbred track license is surrendered, revoked, escrowed, or if a track closes, until a new track is licensed and obtains the written direction from the certified horseman's association for the depository of the escrowed accounts into the purse accounts. It should be noted, however, that Michigan's statute also provides for a specified allocation of the funds to each breed. Nothing in the Michigan statute allows the funds allocated to one breed to be redistributed and placed in the purse accounts for a different breed of racing even in the absence of an escrow provision.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
HORSE RACING COMMITTEE
BY:



DR. DEBORAH KOHEVAR,
CHAIRWOMAN

DATE: 24 Oct. 2014

1900

1901

1902

Massachusetts Thoroughbred Horsemen's

Association, Inc.

189 Squire Road

Revere, Ma. 02151

May 8, 2020

Racehorse Split Committee

Committee Members,

As we continue to work on the restoration of live full-time Thoroughbred racing, it concerns me greatly that you would consider further altering the current 65% - 35% split of funds.

The Thoroughbred industry was the catalyst behind the legislation that gave us the Racehorse Development Fund. As you all know, the original split recommendation was 90% - 10% in favor of the Thoroughbreds, that was based on an in-depth study by an industry expert. With that said, the Commission was very generous and fair when they set the original split at 75% - 25%.

Since that time, many things have changed, including the split, because of Suffolk Downs decision to cease full-time racing after the 2014 racing season. The Gaming Commission and this Committee have not had an opportunity to see what great results could be achieved with the addition of the RHDF to full-time Thoroughbred racing, which over the years provided 90% of revenue and pari-mutual handle to the Commonwealth.

I have submitted an attachment with a breakdown of the progress made by the Standardbreds in utilizing the Racehorse Development Fund (RHDF). While Attorney Goldberg will point out the metrics of this whole equation, I would like to do the same.

The live on track handle has gone from \$13,521 per day in 2014 to \$14,236 in 2019, a gain of only \$715.00. The purses have gone from

\$2,268,300 in 2014 to \$11,139,900 in 2019, that is an increase of \$8,871,600. Almost 9 million more in purses and only an increase in live handle of \$715.00.

There are positives, their Export signal (Their live racing being sent out to other tracks) went from \$80,202 per race day in 2014 to a high of \$162,657 per day in 2017. However, those numbers are now on the decline with an average of \$157,270 in 2018 to \$154,858 in 2019.

When you look at the racing industry in Massachusetts ,or in any state, you look at the overall handle as the litmus test as to the interest in the sport and all the jobs and revenue that interest will provide to Massachusetts.

In 2013 Plainridge had earned purses of \$25,130 per day, Suffolk Downs had earned purses of \$115,592 per day. That is more than 4 ½ times the earned purses. This was one of the last years both tracks were racing full-time and there was no Racehorse Development Fund. This directly reflects the disparity in the interest of the two venues. If you look at the numbers I provided, you will also notice that the bulk of the Standardbreds earned purse monies came from import signals, mainly Thoroughbred. Thoroughbred racing and our signals kept Standardbred racing alive. Without our signals their everyday purses would have been reduced 86%.

In 2018 the overall handle at Plainridge for 110 days of live racing was \$1,601,453 or \$14,559 per day. Suffolk Downs that same year for 8 days handled \$1,698,268 or \$212,284 per day. The Thoroughbred track outhandled the Standardbred track with 102 less days of racing and the average daily handle was almost 15 times greater.

The Standardbred breeding program has been enhanced and at their current funding level it will continue to thrive. With the return of full-time Thoroughbred racing you would see the same great results and then some, as has been proven in the past. Pouring more purse money into the Standardbred industry has done little to spark the public interest or enhance the live handle. The live handle remains anemic and the export signal is down in 2018 and 2019, the growth

has flattened out. The metrics show that more purse funding at this time will do little to make the Standardbred product more attractive to the pari-mutual bettor.

I ask the that the Committee look at these numbers and look at what the intent of the legislature was when they enacted the Racehorse Development Fund as part of the Expanded Gaming Act. As new investors look to build a new Thoroughbred facility, the split will weigh heavily in their decision to do so. Without the continued flow of monies to the Thoroughbred side of the split investors will walk away. In order to build a new 80 – 90 million-dollar facility, there must be two or three years of purse money available to allow investors to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The idea that the current escrowed Thoroughbred purse money puts the fund in jeopardy is simply not true. Giving 100% or any % more to the Standardbreds at this time is more likely to create an appetite on Beacon Hill to sweep some of the fund. It should not be the impetus of this Committee to find ways to spend all the money, the impetus should be on spending or escrowing the monies in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

I would think it would behoove Attorney Goldberg and all of the Standardbred players to work in synergy with the Thoroughbreds to help restore our racing program and allow the Commonwealth to achieve what legislators had envisioned when they put the fund together. That will truly protect and preserve the fund for the long term.

Sincerely,

William G. Lagorio

President, MassTHA

Plainridge Park Year By Year Breakdown

Year	Live Handle	% + or -	Ave. Daily Handle	% + or - Export Simulcast Out at 3%	Total Purses	% + or - Average Daily Purses	% + or - Import Simulcast In At 13% Avg.	% + or -	Estimated Earned Purses 80% From Import Simulcast	Race days
2013										
2014	\$1,108,715		\$13,521	\$6,576,620	\$2,268,300	\$27,662	\$32,281,638		\$2,315,000/ 91% from Import, trk.116K, Ex.99K,IMP 2.1 mil	82
2015	\$1,253,511	12% Pro rated -12% 23 more race days	\$11,938	\$12,685,198	\$4,210,636	46%	\$29,083,364	-10%	\$2,222,000/ \$21,000/day	105
2016	\$1,500,125	18% pro rated +9% 10 more race days	\$13,045	\$16,510,144	\$7,954,092	48%	\$34,290,549	17%	trk.132K, Ex.190K,imp.1.9ml	115
2017	1,600,794	6% pro rated -2% 10 more race days	\$12,806	\$20,332,172	\$9,968,903	21%	\$33,739,956	-2%	\$2,597,000/ \$22,583/day	125
2018	\$1,601,453	even pro rate 15% 10 less race days	\$14,806	\$17,299,723	\$10,892,409	9%	\$34,427,129	2%	trk.150K, Ex. 247K, imp.2.2m	110
2019	\$1,537,450		\$14,236	\$16,724,693	\$11,139,900	2%	\$31,020,447	-10%	trk.168K, Ex. 304K, imp. 2.2m	108

Members of the HRC Committee

The NEHBPA is the oldest nationally recognized horsemen's group (85 years) in the country with over 30,000 members. We are not just the oldest such organization; we have also served as the only organization recognized by the Legislature and in statute as the party responsible for contract agreements and negotiations between the New England Racing licensees for the past 85 years.

This committee, we believe, has two decisions to make: If it chooses to break out the distribution of the RHDF, how would that restructuring of the DHDF affect the Breeders and Health and Welfare Programs, both of which are struggling within the Thoroughbred industry? The second question and decision are what revision of the current split is the Committee considering should it choose to take no action on breaking out the split?

But there is a third decision that the Committee must face as the COVID-19 impact is still threatening Massachusetts and further delaying the resumption of racing and gaming and why this Committee is persisting in its effort to restructure the funding of the Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds. It would seem a better use of the Committee's time and effort to focus any effort it takes during this pandemic to be certain that both breeds survive.

Let's review the options, as we see them:

1. Break out of the RHDF into three buckets

- a. **Purses.** The reality is that with NO revenue coming in, the split doesn't matter. With the delay in racing and gaming being further extended, the Standardbreds have a shortened season, at best, and perhaps no season at all. In either case, it doesn't matter because they have more than sufficient money to run even an abbreviated meet this year. The Thoroughbreds need to preserve an adequate purse balance as multiple investors now have indicated that wiping out purse money could end their interest in investing \$30 million or more in developing a new track in Massachusetts.
- b. **Breeding.** If broken out, the allocation of funding for breeding should be a 50/50 split. This is the most logical decision for both breeds to be able to plan for the future of racing. Ask the Standardbreds how successful they would be in future years without a breeding program. The answer is the same for Thoroughbreds.
- c. **Health and Welfare.** – Just like the breeding program should continue to support its members and be able to plan and budget for the future also an equal 50/50 split.

2. No changes just determine if an adjustment to the split is needed

- a. This is about 2019. The attached document shows that based on the potential of 20 factors to determine the SPLIT, the Thoroughbreds can compete one for one with the Standardbreds. Even though we ran a limited number of days and races. Thoroughbreds contribute more to the Commonwealth, apples to apples.
- b. The assertion that the Standardbreds need more purse money if they are going to be a competitive track, the United States Trotting Association (USTA) ranks Plainridge 8th out of 110 tracks across the state. And the tracks that have higher purses than Plainridge in the rankings are more successful because they have gaming establishments at EVERY track across that state.
- c. The argument that the Commonwealth benefits from their racing 100 plus days. But with 100 stalls at their track, they are really attracting ship-ins and the vast majority of purses leaves Massachusetts to out of state owners, trainers and drivers.
- d. How do we allocate more funding to the SB then to only take it away when a track is built how are they going to adjust?

3. No changes in the SPLIT with focus now on protecting the Thoroughbred industry and racing in general.

- a. With a likely 50 percent or higher reduction in gaming revenue from the coronavirus disruption, the Committee should simply abandon this RHDF redistribution effort (promoted only by the Standardbreds). We can continue our pursuit of a new track development, but the Committee should leave the current split in place.
- b. The HRC and the MGC has a duty and legal obligation to continue to support our members through the Health and Welfare program. I will be forced shortly to advocate to this committee and the MGC for help to keep both the Breeding and Health and Welfare programs afloat

The Committee should be talking about the developers who want to pour \$30 million into a new facility to create hundreds of new jobs and a resurgent breeding program that puts Mass Breds back into the pack of the great breeding states. And we should be advocating for our retirees, the men and women who have given their careers and lives to this great sport. We should be focused on how we are going to go forward, not how we are going to go backwards and lose one of the great traditions in our lives.

Thank you.
Paul Umbrello
Executive Director
NEHBPA



Criteria	SB	TB	
W2 SSR and Plainridge		X	125 TB vs 50 SB
1099 SSR and Plainridge	X		296 TB vs 552 SB based on days we are competatve
Pool size		X	MGC Data
Field Size		X	MGC Data
# of live days	X		Given
Mass Bred Starters		X	MGC Data
Mass Bred Purses		X	MGC Data
Restricted Races		X	
Capital Expenditures	n/a	n/a	Technically Not applicable the money is spent
Gross Terminal Revenue	n/a	n/a	Not Applicable
#/Types of occupational licesnes	X		From MGC data and again questionable vs the amount of days we had 849 TB vs 947 SB TB had more in 2018
# of stallions	None	X	2 TB...SB use artificial insimulation
# of mares	n/a	n/a	TBD
# of foals	X		Again debatable based on current circumstances
# of breeders registered	n/a	n/a	Not Applicable
# of sales at auction	X		They sell at auction we sell privately
Live Racing Handle		X	MGC Data TB have had more for the last 3 years
# of Breeder Farms	X		Will give to SB but questionable
# of Training Farms	X	X	Not applicaable but we know of 1 each
Total	7	9	

Rank by track	Year	Track	Gross Purses by Track	State
1	2019	Yonkers	\$ 60,560,973.00	NY
2	2019	Meadows	\$ 29,968,371.00	PA
3	2019	Meadowlands	\$ 29,395,680.00	NJ
4	2019	Pocono	\$ 27,517,443.00	PA
5	2019	Saratoga	\$ 17,513,627.00	NY
6	2019	Dover Downs	\$ 17,037,748.00	DE
7	2019	Scioto Downs	\$ 16,926,663.00	OH
8	2019	Plainridge	\$ 11,134,892.00	MA
9	2019	The Red Mile	\$ 10,345,409.00	KY
10	2019	Dayton Raceway	\$ 9,458,802.00	OH
11	2019	Harrington	\$ 9,426,790.00	DE
12	2019	Miami Valley	\$ 9,027,227.00	OH
13	2019	Batavia Down	\$ 8,177,935.00	NY
14	2019	Monticello	\$ 7,689,091.00	NY
15	2019	Pompano Park	\$ 7,114,636.00	FL
16	2019	Tioga	\$ 7,045,978.00	NY
17	2019	Hawthorn	\$ 6,882,651.00	IL
18	2019	Buffalo	\$ 5,928,499.00	NY
19	2019	Freehold	\$ 5,893,091.00	NJ
20	2019	Rosecroft	\$ 5,692,093.00	MD
21	2019	Vernon	\$ 5,479,739.00	NY
22	2019	Scarborough Down	\$ 3,444,668.00	ME
23	2019	Cal Expo	\$ 2,183,503.00	CA
24	2019	Bangor Raceway	\$ 1,584,438.00	ME
25	2019	Springfield	\$ 570,102.00	IL
26	2019	Oak Grove	\$ 527,798.00	KY
27	2019	Windsor Fair	\$ 398,576.00	ME
28	2019	Cumberland Rac	\$ 359,112.00	ME
29	2019	Farmington	\$ 326,755.00	ME

30	2019	Goshen Historic	\$	287,418.00	NY
31	2019	Greenville	\$	264,895.00	OH
32	2019	Fryeburg	\$	259,068.00	ME
33	2019	Topsham	\$	244,202.00	ME
34	2019	Butler	\$	198,870.00	PA
35	2019	Gratz	\$	193,488.00	PA
36	2019	Union	\$	192,252.00	ME
37	2019	Lebanon	\$	188,950.00	KY
38	2019	N.Maine Fair Ass	\$	184,529.00	ME
39	2019	Bluegrass Downs	\$	167,268.00	KY
40	2019	Bloomsburg	\$	144,294.12	PA
41	2019	Clearfield	\$	131,849.00	PA
42	2019	Hughesville	\$	121,532.00	PA
43	2019	Stoneboro	\$	115,060.00	PA
44	2019	waynesburg	\$	112,734.00	PA
45	2019	Circleville	\$	107,738.00	OH
46	2019	Celina	\$	103,454.00	OH
47	2019	Belefontaine	\$	100,958.00	OH
48	2019	Findlay	\$	100,403.00	OH
49	2019	Hicksville	\$	99,089.00	OH
50	2019	York	\$	98,115.00	PA
51	2019	Silver springs Rancl	\$	97,658.00	PA
52	2019	Hilliard	\$	95,468.00	OH
53	2019	Dover	\$	93,518.00	OH
54	2019	Dayton	\$	90,088.00	PA
55	2019	Cortland	\$	89,176.00	OH
56	2019	Cashocton	\$	89,176.00	OH
57	2019	Eaton	\$	88,921.00	OH
58	2019	Berea	\$	87,939.00	OH
59	2019	Carrollton	\$	86,217.00	OH
60	2019	Chillicothe	\$	86,321.00	OH
61	2019	Attica	\$	84,296.00	OH
62	2019	Ashland	\$	83,293.00	OH
63	2019	Croton	\$	80,864.00	OH

64	2019	Honesdale	\$	74,994.00	PA
65	2019	Mount Sterling	\$	74,892.00	IL
66	2019	Paducah	\$	71,750.00	KY
67	2019	Lincoln	\$	67,766.00	IL
68	2019	Mayfield	\$	67,250.00	KY
69	2019	Lacenter	\$	67,000.00	KY
70	2019	Carrollton	\$	64,909.00	IL
71	2019	Altamont	\$	61,389.00	IL
72	2019	Charleston	\$	56,655.00	IL
73	2019	Meadville	\$	53,513.00	PA
74	2019	Malone	\$	33,550.00	NY
75	2019	Afton	\$	30,495.00	NY
76	2019	Plattsburg	\$	29,840.00	NY
77	2019	Lowville	\$	29,692.00	NY
78	2019	Trumansburg	\$	28,987.00	NY
79	2019	Coble Skill	\$	27,850.00	NY
80	2019	Bath	\$	27,797.00	NY
81	2019	Westport	\$	27,729.00	NY
82	2019	Palmyra	\$	27,544.00	NY
83	2019	Norwich	\$	27,497.00	NY
84	2019	Boonville	\$	27,249.00	NY
85	2019	Elmira	\$	27,196.00	NY
86	2019	Morris	\$	27,046.00	NY
87	2019	Hemlock	\$	26,497.00	NY
88	2019	Sandy Creek	\$	26,198.00	NY
89	2019	Rushville	\$	25,249.00	IL
90	2019	Dunkirk	\$	24,799.00	NY
91	2019	Martinsville	\$	24,514.00	IL
92	2019	Urbana	\$	22,602.00	IL
93	2019	Newton	\$	22,592.00	IL
94	2019	Carmi	\$	19,839.00	IL
95	2019	Marshall	\$	19,755.00	IL
96	2019	Anna	\$	18,330.00	IL
97	2019	Knoxville	\$	17,403.00	IL

98	2019	Pana	\$	17,649.00	IL
99	2019	Henry	\$	17,403.00	IL
100	2019	Belvidere	\$	17,255.00	IL
101	2019	Cambridge	\$	17,152.00	IL
102	2019	Sandwich	\$	16,554.00	IL
103	2019	Paris	\$	16,150.00	IL
104	2019	Fairfield	\$	15,694.00	IL
105	2019	Morrison	\$	15,165.00	IL
106	2019	Lewistown	\$	14,304.00	IL
107	2019	Farm City	\$	13,298.00	IL
108	2019	Green up	\$	13,203.00	IL
109	2019	Decator	\$	10,966.00	IL
110	2019	Carlinville	\$	10,482.00	IL

Rank by state	Year	State	Gross Purses State	Daily Purse Per Race by State
1	2019	New York	\$ 112,681,835.00	\$ 12,191.00
1	2018	New York	\$ 109,483,025.00	\$ 11,854.00
2	2019	Pennsylvania	\$ 86,203,434.00	\$ 13,537.00
2	2018	Pennsylvania	\$ 91,718,897.00	\$ 14,640.00
3	2019	Ohio	\$ 73,274,272.00	\$ 10,761.00
3	2018	Ohio	\$ 74,251,867.00	\$ 11,046.00
4	2019	New Jersey	\$ 35,288,771.00	\$ 17,265.00
4	2018	New Jersey	\$ 27,272,662.00	\$ 14,362.00
5	2019	Delaware	\$ 26,464,538.00	\$ 13,677.00
5	2018	Delaware	\$ 22,696,735.00	\$ 12,403.00
6	2019	Massachusetts	\$ 11,134,892.00	\$ 9,645.00
6	2018	Massachusetts	\$ 10,872,177.00	\$ 9,348.00
7	2019	Kentucky	\$ 10,980,975.00	\$ 20,719.00
7	2018	Kentucky	\$ 10,608,632.00	\$ 23,112.00
8	2019	Maryland	\$ 9,701,720.00	\$ 7,102.00
9	2018	Maryland	\$ 9,045,547.00	\$ 6,863.00
9	2019	Illinois	\$ 7,452,753.00	\$ 8,851.00
8	2018	Illinois	\$ 9,153,620.00	\$ 7,770.00
10	2019	Florida	\$ 7,114,636.00	\$ 6,693.00
11	2018	Florida	\$ 8,113,433.00	\$ 6,929.00
11	2019	Maine	\$ 5,029,106.00	\$ 4,462.00
10	2018	Maine	\$ 5,162,776.00	\$ 4,577.00
12	2019	California	\$ 2,183,503.00	\$ 4,036.00
12	2018	California	\$ 1,970,665.00	\$ 3,690.00
13	2019	Virginia	\$ 899,150.00	\$ 6,563.00
13	2018	Virginia	\$ 814,334.00	\$ 6,543.00

Hi, My name is Anthony Zizza. My family has been in the thoroughbred industry for decades. My great grandmother worked in the track kitchen at Suffolk Downs; My grandfather worked as a "hot walker" before school as a teenager. I spent many mornings with my dad at Suffolk Downs barn area as a child watching our horses train. My family is passionate about horse racing and breeding. My story is not unique as many families have been shaped by the thoroughbred industry which has a long history in Massachusetts. We have the seed planted in us to love these animals at a young age. I bought my first horse in 2002 and can't imagine my life without them. I bred my first Mass bred in 2011. I have never known such a passionate group of people as horse breeders. We love our horses like family and treat them as our children. This is sometimes a problem but we wouldn't have it any other way.

There are many reasons why I am advocating for no action to be taken for the RDHF split.

1. The fund was meant to support 2 industries, not one. When one industry is having hard times, that struggling industry (currently the thoroughbred industry), needs more support, not less.
2. The yearly changing of the split creates an atmosphere of uncertainty, which would be especially detrimental to potential investors of a race track and has already had a detrimental effect on thoroughbred breeders who do not see the fruits of their investment for at least 3-4 from the time of breeding.
3. The way the split is decided has always put the HRC in a very difficult position because the needs of racing and the needs of breeding are often not the same, and the HRC has always been forced to make a decision as a whole without being able to take the different needs of each piece of the RDHF (purses, breeding and Health & Welfare) into account. For breeding, there is 3-4 year delay in the needs of breeders from both SB and TB that has never been taken into account. Both SB and TB breeders do not breed for the current moment but rather need a fund 4-6 years AFTER they decide to breed (1 year gestation, 2 years of growing, and 2-3 years of racing on average). Therefore breeders must know funds are there for them in 3-4 years, or conversely, we should be looking NOT at foals dropping in 2019 to determine the need of breeders in 2020 but rather foals dropped in 2014-2016 for 2020 needs. I hope this makes sense.
4. The thoroughbred breeders have a legislative mandate to provide bonus awards within and OUTSIDE MA in all races in which thoroughbred MA bred run first, second or third place. The HRC simply can't create an unfunded legislative mandate, which will happen if the split is reduced further for thoroughbred breeders.
5. Changing the split is a self-fulfilling prophecy. The more you reduce one breed's funding, the more certain you make it that that breed dies forever, and this is exactly the opposite reason for which the fund was created. Think about this please.
6. When we talk about farms and residence of Breeders and owners, the truth is that very few farms exist for BOTH breeds. As far as owners, most SB foals are owned by out of state owners and breeders. Most leave the state as quickly as possible. For SB breeders, there also is no requirement for live cover (SB use artificial insemination. TB can't). This makes the cost of SB breeding less than TB breeding. Another reason we can simply use foal count. When the foals

return to MA run, the purse money goes out of state again back to the owners and breeders who don't live in in MA. Many also just ship their horses in from neighboring states to run and ship back out again. For thoroughbreds, it is the opposite. Most owners and breeders of thoroughbreds ARE MA residents. I do not make this distinction to criticize but to point out that this also should be considered.

7. While most MA thoroughbreds RUN out of state, this is only because we don't have a place to run IN STATE, and this is through no fault of our own. We also have legislative authority to run out of state, and have maintained a solid program despite the real challenges.

8. Handle for races restricted to ONLY thoroughbred MA bred have grossed nearly three million dollars in wagering, over the past 4 years. This is for races in which thoroughbred MA BREDS ONLY have participated. I don't know about SB races restricted to SBs as it has been difficult to find this information but I would find it difficult to assume the handle on SB races restricted to SB MA bred would be close to that figure.

There are many more reasons why I think the split should not be adjusted at this time, but, I am sure many more sophisticated arguements will be made in this whole process.

I would like to conclude by saying I wish that both breeds find success in MA and that we all can root for each other as horsemen and horsewomen to support our respective sports and the expansion of open space and the agricultural industry in MA. To that end, may the HRC be guided in the best way to accomplish this.

Anthony M. Zizza

Christopher J. Trakas

April 28, 2020

To the Massachusetts Gaming Commission Horse Racing Committee:

Re: Adjustment to Split

Dear Committee,

I am writing regarding the proposed change to the split between the Standardbred and Thoroughbred industries.

I have been a fan of the Thoroughbred sport since the 1970's with Secretariat. I started going to Suffolk Downs and watching and betting in the 1980's. I got to know people there and became a Thoroughbred Owner in 2005 and also became a Massachusetts Breeder. I have put significant funds into the sport over the years. I kept two hard working Massachusetts people employed full time through this, and many others employed part time, and I supported many Massachusetts farms and businesses that were related to the sport. I want to continue to do the above.

The fact that the Standardbred group wants to take 95%, virtually all of the available money, away from the Thoroughbred group is disappointing and shocking to me. The Standardbred group should remember the wise phrase of "There but for the grace of God go I." They are fortunate in that they have a track to race at for most of the calendar year. They also have ample opportunities to race nearby in Maine as well and they actively do that. It is quite upsetting and disturbing to me that a group blessed with their good fortune would want to "kick another horse group while they are down", to paraphrase another well known phrase.

If there is any adjustment to the racing purses split of the RHDF it has to be conditioned on the following: The Standardbred group must work with Penn National to temporarily convert the Plainridge track to a Thoroughbred surface for at least 6 weeks a year with a 6 week Thoroughbred meet. This type of conversion regularly happened at the Meadowlands track in New Jersey and currently happens at the Century track in Alberta, Canada and I believe also happens at other tracks as well such as Cal Expo. Penn National's roots is as a Thoroughbred track at its eponymous facility in Grantland, PA. They should and do have the ability to support hard working people in their original industry. They have the equipment, financial resources, and knowledge to do so. Only under these conditions could I support any further adjustment of the racing purse split in favor of the Standardbred industry.

If the situation had been reversed and Suffolk Downs had been awarded a slots or full casino license and Plainridge had not been awarded one, the Standardbred group would still have had the good fortune to have a place to race. The property at Plainridge was not a candidate for condos and apartments like Suffolk was. Plainridge most likely would have kept their successful simulcast business going along with their successful bar and food business and would have hosted some functions as well. A long racing season would have continued as well, bolstered by RHDF funds and money would have been made on that live racing product also.

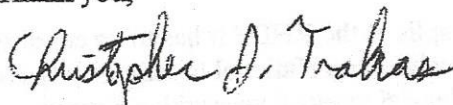
If the situation was reversed I would NEVER attempt to take the livelihoods away from the Standardbred group. For the past several years I have regularly attended the live races at Plainridge. I have supported their product and I have also brought new people there to expose them to harness racing and to try to help Plainridge's live handle. I will continue to support them in 2020 despite my great disappointment in them. Racing and equine groups should help each other. What the Standardbred group is trying to do is greedy and mean spirited.

I am not opposed to having three "buckets" for the split going forward. However I oppose any change to the benefits bucket and the breeders' buckets. The benefits program is essential to the older Thoroughbred folks whose business was greatly curtailed through no choice of their own. The Standardbred group is fortunate to be able to have ample opportunities to work close to home and should not further harm this very vulnerable group of generally older people.

Breeding is a long term proposition and because of that the breeders' split should not be changed either. The Mass Breed races at Suffolk Downs and Finger Lakes were very helpful to breeders in 2019, including myself. Importantly the bulk of the funds that I and other breeders received ultimately ended up in the hands of Massachusetts natives who are employees and contractors. They also ended up helping Massachusetts based service providers, veterinarians, farms, and feed and tack stores. Without the breeders' funds, Massachusetts breeding will end.

I know the Massachusetts Thoroughbred workers well. Many of them have been forced to relocate to New York or Florida or Delaware to survive. They want to come back here some day. The three or four track proposals that are in the pipeline right now could make that dream a reality for them. The more fortunate Standardbred workers should not try to quash their dreams.

Thank you,



Christopher J. Trakas
Milton, MA

Dear Members of the Horse Racing Committee:

As you know, the thoroughbred racing industry stands at a critical crossroad in our proud history and tradition. The decision you are preparing to make regarding the split in the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) has serious implications for the future of the sport of thoroughbred racing, breeding and related investment and employment. It also directly affects the security of our retirees who are dependent upon the health, welfare and medical benefits provided by the NEHBPA through RHDF revenues.

We have frankly been dismayed at what our members view as a lack of understanding by your Committee to fully understand how this decision would irreparably harm our industry and the sport of Thoroughbred racing in Massachusetts. The legislation that created the HRC and the MGC was clearly intended to advance the best interests of BOTH breeds in Massachusetts, but the Committee appears to be leaning toward a decision that can only benefit the standardbreds and further imperil the thoroughbreds.

On behalf of our members and the national industry we represent here in Massachusetts, we remain concerned about our future and ask that the Committee consider the following:

- The HRC has remained silent on the need to protect and support BOTH breeds with its statutory authority to revise the split and has even been silent on the standardbred demand for a 95 percent share of the RHDF. How does the Committee envision the future of the Thoroughbred Racing industry in Massachusetts under the scenario that the Standardbreds are demanding?
- The HRC has also been publicly silent on the prospects of at least three developers who have come forward with proposals to invest \$30 million or more in a new thoroughbred racing facility. Even as the long-predicted demise of Suffolk Downs was slowly unfolding over the past five years, the Committee displayed little interest in what might replace the Suffolk Downs racetrack.
- The Committee appears unprepared to challenge assertions by the Standardbred industry that they deserve the lopsided split they are demanding. Is the Committee aware that Plainridge Park is already among the richest venues for trotters in the country? Why is the Committee considering giving them an even greater share of the split?
- Pound for pound, thoroughbred racing is a far better investment of the RHDF revenue than standardbred racing, both in the average handle that we attract as well as the crowds we draw. The Committee needs to reconsider its reliance on "racing days" as the key metric to assess the best investment of these public dollars.
- At a time when every public dollar spent in Massachusetts matters, the vast majority of purse money awarded by the standardbreds – three quarters of it leaves Massachusetts when the races are over at Plainridge. This is information readily available to Committee members but has gotten no notice or attention.

Racing has been a big part of my life for 50 plus years and currently own 14 thoroughbreds, three of them Mass Breds. I have every intention of racing them in Massachusetts on a new track facility. What I am proudest of as a horseman of long standing is my work on behalf of our sport, the number of jobs that we have created and the farms that our work has supported during tenure at the NEHBPA.

The Committee has an opportunity to demonstrate a vision for a revitalized thoroughbred industry in Massachusetts that will advance our sport and create hundreds of good jobs and a new venue in an underserved area of the state. We are betting on a revitalized Thoroughbred Racing industry in Massachusetts and we hope that the Committee will make the same bet.

Anthony Spadea Jr.,
President
New England Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records and the role of the committee in overseeing these records. It highlights the need for transparency and accountability in all financial transactions.

The second part of the document details the specific responsibilities of the committee members, including the review and approval of budgets, the monitoring of expenditures, and the reporting of financial performance to the governing body.

The third part of the document outlines the procedures for the annual financial review, including the preparation of the annual financial statements and the conduct of the audit.

The fourth part of the document discusses the role of the committee in ensuring the integrity of the financial data and the prevention of fraud. It emphasizes the importance of a strong internal control system and the need for regular audits.

The fifth part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations from the financial review. It identifies areas where improvements are needed and provides a clear path forward for the organization.

The sixth part of the document discusses the role of the committee in promoting financial literacy and awareness among staff and the public. It highlights the importance of clear communication and transparency in all financial matters.

The seventh part of the document provides a conclusion and a final statement of the committee's commitment to the highest standards of financial integrity and accountability.

The eighth part of the document discusses the role of the committee in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organization's financial resources. It highlights the importance of prudent financial management and the need for a clear financial strategy.

The ninth part of the document provides a final summary of the key findings and recommendations from the financial review. It identifies areas where improvements are needed and provides a clear path forward for the organization.

Approved by the Committee
Date: 15/11/2023

5/4/2020

Gmail - Re: CRR



Sat, May 2, 2020 at 1:51 PM

Hello,

I have been an owner, investor and avid of Horse Racing for the last 15 years. I love the industry and the people who work and sacrifice their time to take care of these wonderful animals. These people are the life line for our industry and I think the adjustment in the split would be fatal to the thorough bred industry and the jobs and farms it will impact. We can not afford to have these jobs lost and farms shut down.

I hope the Mass Horse Racing Committee does not adjust the split and place Purse Breeders and our Health and Welfare in real jeopardy. I would hate to see Massachusetts lose any part of the thorough bred racing industry which has a part of our great Commonwealth since 1935. We cannot lose that prizes history and the jobs and farms that come along with that history.

Best regards,

Derek DePetrillo

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Gregg Rose, and I am writing you today to ask that you make no changes in the current split between the Thoroughbred and Standardbreds.

I have been a thoroughbred owner for the past 21 years, and I have been a member of the Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeders Association for seventeen years, and a board member for the past 16 years.. At the current time I am part owner of three horses that were bred in Massachusetts, and awaiting their opportunity to begin their racing careers, when and if racing returns to the north east.

Should you change the split and allow the folks who run Standard bred racing what they want, you will have effectively finished Thoroughbred racing in Massachusetts. If there is no money, the few breeders who are still participating will cease breeding horses. Should that happen many of the remaining farms will close, and an industry will come to an ignoble end. It doesn't have to happen this way. Thoroughbred owners and breeders are a resilient group, as long as there is hope they will continue. i But we need encouragement. Breeding is expensive, it will cost a minimum of \$50,000 to raise even one horse from conception, to racing age.

There are at least three potential investors, that have shown interest in building a New race track, and I think there might be even more should sports betting ever come to fruition here in Massachusetts. However why should they invest a huge amount of money if there are no horses, no Breeders, and no owners. There is interest among the General public, just look at the attendance Numbers at the Racing festivals held at Suffolk Downs. Which brings me to another point: why do the Standard bred people deserve a larger share? There is little to no interest in the sport among the general public. There doesn't even seem to be any interest among Casual gamblers, as most of them to attend Plainridge, are there to wager on the thoroughbred signal.

I do not know if you are aware, but there is a currently a bill that is already out of committee that will do a great job of kick starting the Thoroughbred Breeding program. The MTBA board is proud of this bill, which has been too long in coming but it will create a major increase in people who are willing to invest in the program.

Finally, I must ask you in all fairness, is this the time to make such a drastic change that will affect so many people when one considers the state of the country and the world. We don't know what the rest of the year will bring. I feel strongly that the commission should wait at least a year before making such a step which might cost a great many good people their favorite activity at best, or their livelihoods at worst.

I thank you for your attention to this matter

Gregg Rose

NEHBPA

From: Corinne Gilardo

Re: Mass Gaming Commission

To Whom it may concern. My name is Corinne Gilardo and I am a retired horse trainer. I spent 50 years of my life doing what I loved mostly at Suffolk Downs. Please don't take the funding away from the Horsemen. The HBPA does many good things for us. God willing Massachusetts will have Horse racing again in the future. Please leave the split alone.

Sincerely,
Corinne Gilardo
Owner and Trainers

NEHBPA

From: Leona McKanas

Re: Mass Gaming Commission

To Whom it may concern. I was in the racing business for 30+ years at Suffolk Downs, it was my life. Upon retiring after Suffolk closed there was not much for me or many of my fellow horsemen to do. For most of us horses is all we know and it's not easy to go into the corporate world and get a job. Without the RHDF giving us what they do we could not survive.

Hopefully soon we will have another racetrack in Massachusetts but I believe without the RHDF nobody will want to build. Not only is it helping many people now it will help our future.

Leona McKanas
Trainer

NEHBPA

Re: Message

From: MARYANN FRUZZETTI

Date: Monday, April 27, 2020, 11:18 AM EDT

Dick has been an owner trainer and breeder continuously since about 1965. I got my first trainers license at Northampton Fair when I was 19 years old. In 1971 I was galloping horses at Suffolk before school. He bought the farm in East Bridgewater in 1969 and it has been operating continuously as a thoroughbred race horse facility since then. We had a stud and raised some of our own and some for other people for many years. We've been licensed continuously in Massachusetts for over 50 years, as owner/trainers. We've been members of the HBPA for all of those years. We have never had any involvement with standardbreds. We are still working to make our farm ready to go the instant we have racing available, there is nothing we would like better than to be able to go back to the job that we love. We worked with the HBPA and all the thoroughbred horsemen for years to get casino ok in Massachusetts, only to have it taken from us. The assistance money we receive from the HBPA is key to keeping us going. Get our racing back, there are still a lot of us out here. Please don't take our assistance, we need it to survive. Sincerely, Dick and Mary Ann Fruzzetti CENTRAL FARM EAST BRIDGEWATER MA

NEHBPA

From: Florence Gemma Siravo

Re: Mass Gaming Commission

To Whom it may concern: It has been an extreme hardship losing racing in Massachusetts. I own a horse farm in Rhode Island and always depended on racing for income. The horsemen have no means of income after the track closed. We have no retirement or 401K like most people. I have been in racing for 50 years that's all I know. Now I am 76 years old and all I have is a small check from the HBPA Retirement Fund and Social Security.

Now I understand that the Mass Gaming Commission is trying to take that. I really depend on that money for myself and to help keep my farm alive. Hope you understand and give this much consideration.

Sincerely,
Florence Gemma Siravo
Owner and Trainers

4/27/2020

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Francis Dullea _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? Since 1957 _____

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder Y Other Y

Are you Retired Yes _____

When did you start in the industry 1957 _____?

Some of your career highlights:

Everything in this business has been a career highlight from Hotwalkers groom exercise rider, blacksmith to trainer owner breeder. The massbreds I trained all gave me an enormous amount of pleasure as 8 of them were stakes winners. I had a lot of 2nd and 3rd place in the standings as a trainer and finally swept a title making leading trainer in the 80's was able to bring many horses to Saratoga, Belmont, Monmouth & Delaware to compete against great horsemen and win.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

We made a lot of money in the Thoroughbred Industry back then. Times have changed drastically for all of us horsemen because finally after fighting so hard for this RHDF to give back to horsemen like myself circumstances have ripped it out from underneath us. We get a small portion to live on and taking this away now would be beyond cruel as we absolutely have and do depend on this money.

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the RHDF Split?

Our Group worked hard to get this RHDF to benefit the Thoroughbred Horsemen. The only ones that are benefiting now are the Standardbreds. If we lose a % from the purses, we lose investors, if we lose a % from Breeders, we lose those who have kept the program alive with no chance of expanding. If we lose Health and Welfare then we actually lose the little we receive for all our years of giving to the Commonwealth. Please don't Change the split again! It's just wrong.

May 1, 2020

Dear Decision Making Committee Members,

I am writing today to urge you to support the continuance of the NE Horse Racing Old Age assistance benefit in accordance the Rules and By Laws of the New England Horseman's Benevolent Protection Association. It is on sound footing that these Trainers worked relentlessly 7 days a week, most 10-14 hours a day in New England's inclement weather, and even longer days to support the racing programs on special race day events and forgoing most holidays to support the New England Gaming industry. It would be such an injustice to stop the retirement benefits for all of these hard working dedicated New England Trainers.

These Trainer's may not be the most powerful or influential group of the working force, but they had their heads down, remained devoted and loyal to the best interest of the horse and the game. Undeniably and without a doubt the hardest working, most dedicated individuals to their passion of Thoroughbred Horse Racing. To deny them these health and retirement benefits, and basic welfare benefit as a result of a situation most certainly out of their control while the fact the NE racing industry is in a "stall". Abandoning their benefits is no different than the government abandoning hard working people in the face of this COVID 19 Pandemic. By the general nature of the business these hard workers horsemen and families likely have no other Pensions, 401K investments or any other retirement benefits to fall back on. This is terribly unfair and would decimate New England Horsemen's families' sustainable income across New England. I truly feel taking this income and benefits away would devastate the New England Trainer's supplemental income that supports their ability to buy their very basic needs for goods and general services.

So now a little about me, my name is Dominic "Sonny" LaGreca, I was a devoted New England Thoroughbred Racehorse Trainer in the New England since 1968, starting my career at Lincoln Downs and Training until 2004, when I retired from Training at Suffolk Downs. I enthusiastically took advantage of every opportunity to saddle my horses at all Thoroughbred Race meet in New England, including the New England Fair meets. I feel privileged that the HBPA Organization fought so hard for this Legislation for so many years. For us to be able to get some small percentage of the money from simulcast racing and gaming commission to award the Trainers their Retirement benefits. After all, where would their business profits come from without the years of dedication these Trainers provided to the Racing Industry?

I loved my Career in Thoroughbred Horse Training and have surely saddled over 1,500 horses in New England circuit. I am proud to be the recipient of the retirement benefit offered by the HBPA. It assists me and my family in my elder years as a supplemental income. I'm very thankful to the HBPA for fighting on my behalf and I have come to rely on this benefit greatly.

I completely support the NEBPA efforts to secure these benefits for the many hard working Horse Trainers that have supported the New England Racing Industry for so many years. So protecting their retirement, health and welfare benefits that they fought so hard to get for is not only the right thing to do but it is a true American value for the hard working Trainers who earned it!

I urge you to protect my Retirement income and the Health, Retirement and Welfare income of so many hardworking Trainers of New England. Thank you for your time and consideration in this very serious matter.

Sincerely,



Dominic E. LaGreca
Proud Retired New England Thoroughbred Trainer



(no subject)

1 message

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 8:26 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Lisa Welsch _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? 25 yrs _____
 Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder Other
 Are you Retired No, waiting on full time racing in MA _____
 When did you start in the industry 1990 _____?
 Some of your career highlights:

Winning Races

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the RHDF Split? Our Thoroughbred Industry has suffered a horrific loss when full time racing in MASSACHUSETTS ended. Our Thoroughbred horsemen are all excited about the many investors ready and willing to bring racing back to the commonwealth and now potentially another moment comes with the Standardbreds working hard to take away any hope our Horsemen have left. It is completely unjustified to take even 1% more from an Industry who has lost so much. Please Do Not Adjust the Split!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Fw: Fwd: letter Carol Swenski

1 message

Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 12:34 PM

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 12:11 PM, €

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

To Whom it may concern: I am writing in regards to the NEHBPA in how much assistance they help in the lives of their horsemen. Many of us horsemen to who cannot work at normal capabilities depend on financial aid from the NEHBPA. . Myself as I am now disabled for the last year or so with rehabbing from 2 cardiac bypasses greatly need the aid to meet basic needs.I am grateful to get the help as do many other horsemen that gave seen their mor healthier days in the past.

Sincerely

Carol Skawinski

PS.

I have been in the thoroughbred industry my whole life and have been a horse owner and trainer since 1994..

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Anthony Manzo

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone Number:

Email:

How Long have you been a member? 65 yearsCheck all that apply: Are you an Owner Trainer Breeder Other Are you Retired YesWhen did you start in the industry 1947?Some of your career highlights: Owned and trained race horses for over 65 years.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

I am 91 years old on a fixed income and depend on this benefit for all my medication. Without it I would not be able to afford them. Also helps pay for my food.

How does the Race Horse Development Fund help you and why should there be no changes in the SPLIT

I am on a fixed income and depend on this fund to survive. This is why I feel there should be no SPLIT in the fund.

If you need any other information, please call me.

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Shermye Meade

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? _____

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Trainer Breeder Other _____

Are you Retired

When did you start in the industry 1979?

Some of your career highlights:

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

I'm on a fixed income. And to lose the money from the HBPA would be devastating. I live off that money. And a few dollars I get from Social Security.

How does the Race Horse Development Fund help you and why should there be no changes in the SPLIT

there should be no split because the money we all receive helps us pay a few bills and buy food. No change in the split. The HBPA has been so good to the horsemen and were all so grateful to them.

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Robert Ferraro

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? 40 yrs

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Trainer Breeder Other _____

Are you Retired y

When did you start in the industry _____?

Some of your career highlights:

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

losing the money I receive would be very sad. I'm on a fixed income and I rely on the money very much so.

How does the Race Horse Development Fund help you and why should there be no changes in the SPLIT

I really hope there is no change in the Split. We as horsemen have worked so hard all our lives and we receive a small check to keep us going would be a shame to lose. We all horsemen have lost enough. Please don't stop our money.

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: SALVATORE J. LONGO

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? SINCE 1976

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Trainer Breeder Other _____

Are you Retired YES

When did you start in the industry 1976?

Some of your career highlights: TRAINED: 1) BANKER'S JET - FLORIDA BRED SPRINTER OF THE YEAR, PAUL REVERE AWARD WINNING SPRINTER (TWICE) GRADED STAKES WINNER + PLACED 2) BEST HALF - PAUL REVERE AWARD WINNING 3 Y.O. FILLY - MULTIPLE STAKES WINNER 3) TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT - OLDER MASS BRED CHAMPION - MASS BRED TURF CHAMPION - MULTIPLE STAKES WINNER 4) USABLE TRACK RECORD HOLDER FOR 2 1/4 MILES @ ROCKINGHAM PARK 5) SHYTHAN - MASS BRED 3 Y.O. CHAMPION - MULTIPLE STAKES WINNER 6) BISHOP RIDLEY - TRACK RECORD HOLDER 5 FURLONGS TURF - SUFFOLK DOWNS - MULTIPLE STAKES WINNER.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

I WAS INVOLVED IN A "SERIOUS CAR ACCIDENT" AND HAVE BEEN DISABLED/ UNABLE TO WORK SINCE 2008. MY ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME IS S.S.D.I. - \$1440/MONTH AFTER MEDICARE DEDUCTION OTHER THAN THE HEALTH + WELFARE BENEFIT FROM THE H.B.P.A. - LOSING THE H.B.P.A. BENEFIT WOULD FURTHER CRIPPLE ME FINANCIALLY - MY WIFE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RETIRE - BECAUSE WE SIMPLY NEED THE MONEY TO FINANCIALLY SURVIVE - AND AT THE PRESENT TIME SHE HAS AS MANY OTHERS HAVE - BEEN LAID OFF DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

How does the Race Horse Development Fund help you and why should there be

no changes in the SPLIT

THE FUND HELPS ME GREATLY FINANCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY - I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR ALL MY YEARS @ THE TRACK. TAKING THE FUNDING AWAY FROM THE THOROUGH BREDS WOULD BE DEVASTATING FROM THE STAND-POINT OF THE TWO AFOREMENTIONED REASONS. IT WOULD ALSO BE THE DEATH KNOLL OF ANY HOPE TO REVIVE THE THOROUGH BRED SPORT. ANY AND ALL HOPE I HAVE OF REVIVING MY FARM WOULD BE DASHED!! THE BARNS WOULD BE TORN DOWN, THE PASTURES + FENCES GONE AND ANOTHER CUL-DE-SAC WOULD REPLACE MY OPEN SPACE - WHICH I HAVE SO DESPERATELY HUNG ON TO THE LEGACY OF MY FARM WHICH I HOPE TO PASS ON TO MY CHILDREN WOULD BE JUST ANOTHER COOKIE CUTTER CUL-DE-SAC!! DO NOT DECREASE THE SPLIT - BRING IT BACK TO SOME SEMBLANCE OF FAIRNESS - GIVE US A CHANCE!!



(no subject)

1 message

Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 7:16 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Arthur Duffy jr _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____

Email: _____
How Long have you been a member? _____

_____ all the years I've trained.
Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder Other _____

Are you Retired no
When did you start in the industry ?
1975

Some of your career highlights:
I started 3,393 horses.
Winning 527 races with 562 seconds and 538 thirds.
I trained a lot of nice horses in NE.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split?
I've been waiting 5 years for full time racing to come back to Massachusetts so I can get back to what I Love "Training horses" we finally have several investors who want to build a racetrack, If the split changes and we lose even a % it will hurt us all again. We need everything we have to move forward. Please don't allow greed to set the Thoroughbred horsemen back any further. Thank You

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: LEON McLanias

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? _____

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Trainer Breeder Other _____

Are you Retired Active

When did you start in the industry _____?

Some of your career highlights:

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

How does the Race Horse Development Fund help you and why should there be no changes in the SPLIT

THE STANDARD Breds have gotten a fair share To try and get TB racing up and running we need the RHDF to show investors the State is still supporting us As it is now it helps those retired with little money coming in I hope a race track is soon built so I can come back home were my family is and not have to travel to work



(no subject)

1 message

Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 11:34 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Vincent Amico _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____

Email: _____
How Long have you been a member?
1981

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner ___ Y Trainer ___ Y Breeder ___ Y Other ___ Y
Are you Retired yes
When did you start in the industry ? 1973

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?
I am a disabled jockey with many health problems and my hospital bills are overwhelming. This money I receive helps with my bills. I can't imagine losing it.

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split?
If they change the split it will hurt all our Thoroughbred horsemen who have come to depend on the help we get from the NEHBPA. Please Please don't make any changes. Thank You

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



(no subject)

1 message

Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 8:36 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Arthur Duffy Sr _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member?

_____ all the years I've trained.

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder Y Other

Are you Retired yes

When did you start in the industry ?

1960

Some of your career highlights:

I started 3,256 horses.

Winning 427 races with 480 seconds and 452 thirds.

I trained a lot of nice horses in NE.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

It would be devastating to lose these benefits especially in these struggling times as everyone in Massachusetts are being hit very hard with this Pandemic.

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split?

We the Thoroughbred horsemen in Massachusetts have been waiting patiently for 5 yrs. to get full time racing back in Massachusetts the excitement everyone has just knowing there are Investors looking to bring us all back to our passion has been overwhelming. We can not and should not be asked to give another % of the RHDF as we all know that will chase investors away. As we all continue to struggle in Massachusetts with this Pandemic we the Thoroughbred horsemen just can't afford another blow to our Industry. Please don't make any changes. allow us a chance to rebuild what was taken from us all. Thank You!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

While the harness racing industry has never engaged in a campaign against the Thoroughbred industry, the present conditions, and looking into the future, do not envision a situation where a facility to race Thoroughbreds will be available. The Gaming Commission is holding more than \$18 million from the Racehorse Development Fund on behalf of the Thoroughbreds that is restricted to purses. That balance is enough to pay purses for at least two years should a track be opened.

The case for a community to host a racetrack also seems bleak at best. More than five years ago a Horse Park Proposal was presented to the Race Horse Committee, which included a plan was to open a Thoroughbred facility in 18 months. This proposal never materialized.

In the past year proposals in three different communities have been made. The following summarizes the actions taken.

In October 2019 a developer presented a proposal to build a horse track and gambling facility in Wareham; the state senator from the area slammed the bill as an attempt by a "self-serving" developer to be given special treatment. The bill would require a major change in legislation by allowing a second slots parlor. A representative from the Wareham Redevelopment Authority said market research shows that Region C cannot support another casino. Approval would result in four casinos being relatively close to each other. (Plainville, Tiverton and Lincoln in Rhode Island).

In December 2019, a town meeting was held in Great Barrington to hear public comment on a long-abandoned racetrack on the Fair Grounds in that Community. One of the hurdles in obtaining approval is a change in state law to allow races in Great Barrington while allowing Suffolk Downs to maintain simulcast and remote betting in East Boston. A petition was brought as a bill "providing that any horse racing in Great Barrington, now or at any time in the future will require

citizens to vote at town meeting and on a ballot question before horse racing can ever come to town". Further, residents at the Town meeting were overwhelmingly against the proposal. One of the speakers called it stunning and bizarre that horse racing was even being considered. Concerns about traffic and proximity to the Housatonic River were also concerns.

In the fourth quarter of 2019 a proposed new facility in Rowley was met with extreme skepticism. Of note is when the lawyer representing the developer said the track would be in the middle of nowhere, which was not accepted as a positive by the attendees. The promise that earnings of up to \$250 thousand coming back to the town were not supported by any facts or analysis. One resident launched a website named www.goawayrowleygroup2020.com. The proposal does not appear to have chance of passing.

In conclusion, the Thoroughbreds have stated that the funds in the RHDF are needed to encourage investors to construct a racing facility. The three proposals made last year show that in racing terms, they never "got out of the starting gate" and it is more than fair to say that the construction of a new track is doubtful and even if approved would be years into the future.

When consideration is given to the facts, the overview provided by Peter Goldberg for the year 2019, which includes all of the metrics that are considered in determining the split, the bleak outlook for the Thoroughbred industry, and the Innovation Group report, it should be concluded that the Standardbred industry should receive 100% of the RHDF.

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Velma Emery <pemburyhouse@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:44 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustment to the Split

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

190 South Rd.
Salisbury, NH
May 5, 2020

Gentlemen, as a long time Mass. thoroughbred breeder, licensed owner and licensed trainer at Suffolk Downs I strongly object to the current division of monies for racing. The contribution of Standardbreds to the Massachusetts Racing industry for years was **insignificant** compared to the past influence of Thoroughbred racing.

My History

Since the 1980's I have devoted my efforts to thoroughbred racing & breeding. As a breeder of Mass-Breds I previously stood the well-known stallions, "Rise Jim", "Soldier Boy" and "Real Partner" as well as others at my Wilmington, MA farm. After selling that farm, my Thoroughbred involvement continued at Pembury House in Sutton, MA, an attractive farm often used in Mass. thoroughbred promotions. For a number of years, I also was **publisher of Northeast Thoroughbred News** until the pending demise of thoroughbred racing prompted me to cease publication. Retaining some of its acreage, Pembury House was sold in the year that full time racing ceased at Suffolk and I moved to NH, altho still retaining sufficient land in Sutton to come back to if racing ever revived. Any foals I produced after the sale of Pembury House were born in other states and I have not produced a Mass-Bred since regular racing at Suffolk ceased.

No future track builder will consider a replacement track in Massachusetts if you take away the funds for thoroughbreds. Standardbred racing has so little appeal that Massachusetts will never see the benefits that, in the past, resulted from a thriving thoroughbred industry.

Sincerely,

Velma M Emery

e-mail: PemburyHouse@aol.com
Telephone: 603-648-2372

100 South Hill
Concord, NH
03301

Concord, New Hampshire, is a town of about 10,000 people and is located
about 20 miles north of the state capital, Manchester. It is a town of
history and scenic beauty. The town is home to many historic sites and
is a popular destination for tourists. The town is also home to many
businesses and is a growing community.

Since the 1980s, the town has devoted its efforts to the protection of its
historic sites and scenic beauty. The town has established a Historic
District and has designated many buildings as historic landmarks. The
town has also established a Historic Preservation Commission to oversee
the town's historic resources. The town has also established a Historic
Trust to manage the town's historic resources. The town has also
established a Historic Preservation Fund to provide financial assistance
to historic preservation projects. The town has also established a
Historic Preservation Advisory Board to provide advice and guidance to
the town's historic preservation efforts. The town has also established
a Historic Preservation Commission to oversee the town's historic
resources. The town has also established a Historic Trust to manage the
town's historic resources. The town has also established a Historic
Preservation Fund to provide financial assistance to historic preservation
projects. The town has also established a Historic Preservation Advisory
Board to provide advice and guidance to the town's historic preservation
efforts.

John Doe

John M. Doe

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Suzanne Murphy <murphydav@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 9:45 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustment to the split discussion - Mass Thoroughbred Racing

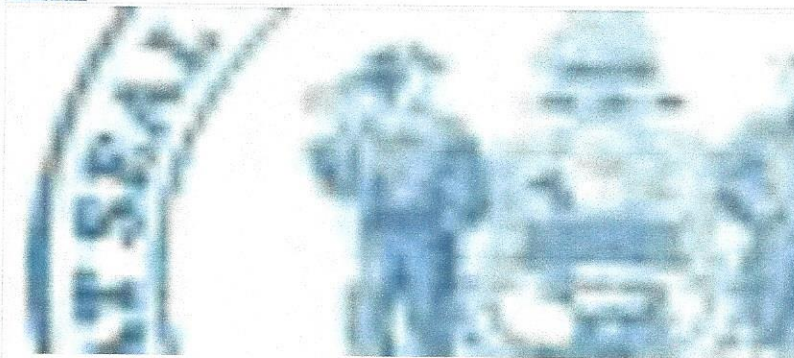
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE LEAVE THE SPLIT AS IT IS! Thoroughbred racing needs to return to Massachusetts!

Please take time to review this 2014 study (see link below) from the tiny state of Delaware, regarding the huge \$182 million economic impact horse racing has on their state. Just think of the impact Thoroughbred racing could have on Massachusetts.

[Delaware horse racing has \\$182 million economic impact, study finds - State of Delaware News](#)



Delaware horse racing contributed more than \$182 million to the state's economy in 2014, supporting the equiva...

The ripple effect is huge. Not only does it provide family entertainment for the citizens and visitors of Massachusetts and neighboring states, but it also has a tremendous economic impact for employment at the track and throughout the state. Real estate development, construction jobs, contractors, feed stores, farms, breeding, boarding, training, hay, bedding, farriers, veterinarians, trainers, jockeys, grooms, tack stores, heavy equipment sales, farm jobs, horse transportation, and the list goes on and on.

I have personally left northern New England, hopefully only temporarily. I, along with so many former northern New England horsemen have been waiting to return when Thoroughbred racing returns. I raced at Suffolk, and will support Thoroughbred racing in the state. Years ago, we had year-round Thoroughbred racing in northern New England at

Suffolk Downs and Rockingham Park, plus racing at Northampton, and other small venues.
I hope it will return soon.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to moving back to the area when Thoroughbred racing returns to the great state of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Murphy
Thoroughbred Owner & Breeder

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: bhart317@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Mass gaming

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is William d Hart
I am the owner, breeder and racer of two mass bred fillies I have a three year old filly and a 2020 colt I strongly urge the board not to make any changes in the existing agreement

Thank you
William d Hart
Sent from my iPhone

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Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Minchello, John JM Collins <john.minchello@collins.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: ADJUSTMENT RHDF SLIT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a MassTHA board member and longtime thoroughbred owner of race horses. I am currently racing my horses out of state, due to no racing in Massachusetts, I am asking you to please, no begging you to leave the split alone for now, we have to good locations and investors on board with opening new race tracks in Massachusetts, but if you take away our percentage of the race horse development fund, they will most likely back out, they are a 100% committed, so please leave it alone, just give us to the end of 2020, we are just waiting to see how it plays out with the legislature. We have so many horse owners, trainers and farms wanting this to happen. So please just give us a chance and you will see without a doubt there will be thoroughbred racing next year, in Massachusetts.

Thank you
John C Minchello

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Phreddie sienkewicz <dobegood@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 6:44 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: HRC split

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it may concern, i am in the Thoroughbred business in MA, breeding, racing and have been for 40 years. Please do not take the money way and give it to the standardbreds . The purse money is helping keep people employed and farms going and to take the money away would have a great effect on our staying in business. PLEASE don't do it. thank you Winifred Sienkewicz, Land's End Farm

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Jorge Burgos <jorge66burgos@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustment of the split

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a 30 veteran of the gate crew and assistant starter in Tampa and Suffolk Downs I ask the committee to have the split remain the same. My fellow gate crew members all want to come home to work. Please leave it the same so many people are depending on Bill and Paddy to get this done . Thank You Jorge Borgus

5/4/2020

Gmail - Adjustment to the split



Adjustment to the split

1 message

Sat, May 2, 2020 at 6:27 PM

Dear Horse Racing Committee,

My name is Jacqueline Falk. I am a Thoroughbred Trainer and Jockey. I have been active in the Thoroughbred sport since the early 1980's starting as an exercise rider at the New York and New Jersey tracks. I got my Jockey's license in 1986 at Rockingham and then got licensed shortly after in Massachusetts. I became a licensed trainer in 2005.

The Standardbred group should not be trying to take 95% of the available RHDF funds. They are lucky enough to be able to work close to home and they have a long season. They also have many opportunities to race in Maine as well. The Thoroughbred workers would love to have the opportunities to work close to home that they have.

The standardbred group should offer to convert the Plainridge track to a thoroughbred track for a couple of months a year just like they used to do at the Meadowlands. I rode many times on that converted Meadowlands track and it was fine and was popular with the fans. They could race in Maine or Yonkers or Saratoga Harness during this time or simply have some down time on the farm.

They should not be trying to take away the breeding and health and welfare money. I know many of these older Thoroughbred people who get these benefits. While they may not seem like huge benefits to some, they are very important to these people.

I am a trainer of several Mass Bred horses. The Mass Bred program is very important to me. Mass Bred Thoroughbred breeding has to continue. The standardbreds have their breeding program and we should have ours as well.

I know many Massachusetts thoroughbred people who were forced to go to Florida or Delaware or New York, and they would love to come back here. Having this split at a reasonable level can lead to a new track that can make this possible.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Falk

NEHBPA

From: Mary Ann Fruzzetti

Re: Mass Gaming Commission

To Whom it may concern. My husband and I own Central Farm in

E. Bridgewater Mass.

We've been racing thoroughbreds from our farm since 1969. Since Suffolk

closed we've been fighting to keep the farm going by racing in Fla. And N.J.

but always coming back to our farm here with the horses. We live here. This

is Our Home.

Please do not give the Trotters our money.

We need it to keep going and we are of very hopeful that thoroughbred racing

Will return to Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Mary and Richard Fruzzetti

Owner and Trainers

Kathleen Manning

April 28, 2020

Mass. Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street
12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

To whom it may concern;

I am writing today with respect to the HBPA funding. It has been brought to my attention that the state is looking to take additional funding away from them.

My husband receives a monthly assistance check for "Old Age Funding". This helps out immeasurably as he is unable to work. We (and especially him) have spent our lives working, training and racing here in New England. The HBPA has worked diligently for our backsiders over the years, trying to look out for our best interests. Now we are going to lose more of the funding that was earned by the thorobred racing industry? There are a number of groups who are looking to benefit from this and it is not the people who are most in need.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Manning

NEHBPA QUESTIONNAIRE

4/29/20

① THOMAS Mc COOY JR

TMAC2RACING@GMAIL.COM

② A MEMBER SINCE 1973

③ OWNER + TRAINER

④ I RETIRED ~~AT~~ AT THE END OF 2016

⑤ AT LINCOLN DOWNS IN R.I. IN 1973

⑥ I HAD ABOUT 1000 WINS AND A GOOD DEAL OF SUCCESS IN THE MA. BRED PROGRAM.

⑦ THE BENEFITS ARE VERY HELPFUL IN SUPPLEMENTING MY SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK.

⑧ EVEN THOUGH THOROUGH BRED RACING HAS ENDED IN MA. IT WAS THERE FOR MANY YEARS AND GREATLY BENEFITED THE STATE OF MA.

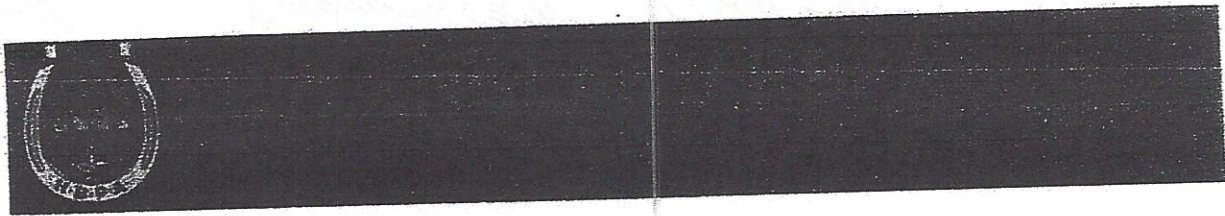
IT ENDED THRU NO FAULT OF OURS AND THOSE WHO WORKED IN THE INDUSTRY FOR MANY

YEARS (43 YEARS FOR ME) DESERVE A LITTLE HELP.

AND WITH A LITTLE HELP IT COULD STILL MAKE A COMEBACK.

YOURS SINCERELY

Thomas Mc Cooy Jr.



Name Ambrose Pascucci

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Cell#/Email _____

How long have you been a member? 45 yrs

Describe your career in racehorse industry? (check all that apply plus # years)

- Owner _____
- Trainer _____
- Breeder _____
- Other (specify) _____
- Active in Standardbreds -- doing what? _____

Career Highlights _____

Active or retired? _____

Should standardbreds be awarded 100% of state funds? Why not? _____

Other Comments:

I have been in the business for many years. With horse racing coming to an end. And my wife taking a stroke life has not been easy. to lose this money would be devastating. I don't know how I could go on. So please don't take the money from us.

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Alfred Burkhardt

Address: _____

City/State/zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? 45 yrs

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Trainer Breeder Other

Are you Retired yes

When did you start in the industry _____?

Some of your career highlights:

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

I have been a horse man all my life. Don't know anything else. If I was to lose this money would be so devastating.

How does the Race Horse Development Fund help you and why should there be no changes in the SPLIT

I've had to move in with my sister. I took sick and can't be left alone by myself. the only money I have is this check I receive from the NEHBPA. It helps my sister pay for my medication & by food. So please don't allow a change in the Split



(no subject)

1 message

Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 11:45 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Alfred Pimental _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member?

1980

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder other

Are you Retired yes

When did you start in the industry ? 1980

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?
I live on a fixed income and depend on these benefits to pay my bills.

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split? This is not the time to take anything else from the Thoroughbred horsemen. Massachusetts is struggling with this Pandemic hitting our State so hard and we cannot afford to lose a % more especially with investors all ready to build a racetrack. This would be very bad for our Breeders who have invested so much money to keep this business alive.
Thank You

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



(no subject)

1 message

Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 10:31 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Michael Collins _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member?

1969

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner ___ Y Trainer ___ Y Breeder ___ other _____

Are you Retired yes

When did you start in the industry ? 1969

Some of your career highlights:

I started 6,634 horses winning 716 races 755 seconds and 835 thirds. \$5,936,672 in earnings.

I employed Grooms, hot walkers, exercise riders & pony people while helping the employment of Vets, Blacksmith's, Dentists, valets, jockeys, gatecrew..ect. Keeping people in the workplace in Massachusetts.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

I live on a fixed income and depend on these benefits to pay my bills. I struggle to keep up with my bills now.

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split?

This is not the time to take anything else from the Thoroughbred horsemen. Massachusetts is struggling with this Pandemic hitting our State so hard and we cannot afford to lose a % more especially with investors all ready to bring a racetrack back to Massachusetts. We were put out of business when Suffolk didn't get the Casino. None of us asked for this now the Standardbreds want to take food off our tables and make sure we have nothing to keep these investors around.

Please don't make any changes to the split. Thank You!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



(no subject)

1 message

Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 11:51 AM

NEHBPA
Name: John Kirby
Address:

City/State/Zip:
Phone Number:

Email: _____
How Long have you been a member?
4 years

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder
Are you Retired no
When did you start in the industry ?
2012
Some of your career highlights:

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split?

We cannot afford to change this split because this would take the opportunity of a racetrack being built away from us. We all want to come home to our family & friends while continuing in a business we Love. Please leave the split as is.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



(no subject)

1 message

Wed, Apr 29, 2020 at 11:22 AM

NEHBPA
Name: Timothy Kirby
Address:

City/State/Zip:
Phone Number:

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member?

40

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner ___ Y Trainer ___ YBreeder ___ Yother _____

Are you Retired no

When did you start in the industry ? 1979

Some of your career highlights:

I started 1,137 horses

139 wins

153 seconds

154 thirds

\$1,814,620 in earnings

I bred, owned and trained many Massbreds who were all talented I also own my own farm in Massachusetts where I had some nice stallions standing.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split?

This split should not be changed because what the Thoroughbred Industry receives now, is are only hope to bring a racetrack back to Massachusetts. As I said I have a breeding farm in Massachusetts, currently with no full time racing I have been forced to Philadelphia to continue in a business I Love. This has been very difficult for me being away from my family in Massachusetts. I would love to come home and get my farm up and running with massbreds once again. Please don't take our only hope of this happening away. keep the split as is for now!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

4/27/2020

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Shirley Dullea _____

Email: _____
How Long have you been a member? Since 1995

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder Y Other Y

Are you Retired no _____
When did you start in the industry 1980's _____?
Some of your career highlights:

My husband and I both Owned, Trained, and bred horses together while I became the secretary and board member of the only known and Nationally Recognized horsemens Group in the Commonwealth for the last 25 years as Secretary I have been able to help many horsemen in our group and I'm proud to say through the trust and relationships built over the years with many president and board members the horsemen kept me for the last 25 years.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?
Losing these benefits for each and every horsemen I have represented would be devastating. Every horsemen has different circumstances as to the need of these benefits and it's far less then they all deserve.

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the RHDF Split?

I can not even imagine anyone trying to take more from our Thoroughbred horsemen now. As I said I put 25 years into helping our horsemen and I don't even have a retirement plan. Yet the Standardbreds have one in place for themselves and their horsemen. If you take anymore from the purses you will devastate the investors who are ready and willing to build a racetrack. If you take more from the Breeders you will stop them from rebuilding the program. If you take Health & Welfare away you will cripple all these horsemen who look forward to what little they get back. And how will we as the NEHBPA help to give all these people a proper burial that unfortunately have been sitting on ice because their loved ones couldn't afford to pay the cost. And all these horses we have had to rescue and re-home. All the calls I receive about eyeglass help. And we get that done as well. All our people on Life Insurance that they couldn't afford. We got that done. Honestly I can go on and on with what we as the NEHBPA do and have done for our horsemen like Benevolence that's always a high demand for struggling horsemen but I'm going to just say please do not change the current split at this time because I can't imagine our Horsemen being disappointed once again. Thank you!

4/27/2020

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: John & Kathy Botty _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? Since 1977 _____

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder Y Other

Are you Retired Yes _____

When did you start in the industry 1990 _____?

Some of your career highlights: Earned \$3 million in purses had 2132 starts with 333 wins, 353 seconds, 301 thirds. I trained multiple stakes winners. And raced keenland, Oakland, fairgrounds, woodbine, Monmouth, NY and my home Massachusetts.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

Hardship

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the RHDF Split?

Now Retired. standardbred money in Massachusetts goes mostly to Maine. We the Thoroughbreds handled more in 3 days of racing festivals at Suffolk in simulcast then the Standardbreds handle in 3 months time. We the Thoroughbred industry need this money to rebuild our Industry especially after we were left out of the loop in 2014. It's Shameful but Borderline Criminal that you would even Consider taking any more money from this split whether it's owner, trainer, Breeder or health & Welfare. Because they all desperately need the funding. Thank You for taking the time to listen to me.

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Herman Kinchen

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

How Long have you been a member? 36

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Trainer Breeder Other

Are you Retired yes

When did you start in the industry _____?

Some of your career highlights:

Raced over 40 years with 5,239 starts
and 566 wins

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

THE INCOME I GET FROM THE NEHBPA
IS 1/3 OF MY INCOME AND ALLOWS ME
TO PAY MY ELECTRIC BILL AND PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

How does the Race Horse Development Fund help you and why should there be
no changes in the SPLIT

4/29/2020

Gmail - (no subject)



(no subject)

1 message

Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 6:58 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Tito Rivera _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____

Email: _____
How Long have you been a member? 1990

Check all that apply: Are you an Owner Y Trainer Y Breeder Other Y

Are you Retired no

When did you start in the industry ? 1970s

Some of your career highlights:

Working with King Carlos Figueroa and having the pleasure to compete with some very talented horsemen.

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the split?

The Standardbreds have one track in Massachusetts and they already have plenty of money funded to their program. The Thoroughbred Industry just can't take another hit with this split while we are working hard to bring a racetrack back to Massachusetts.

Please don't take anymore from our Horsemen.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



(no subject)

1 message

Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 8:07 AM

NEHBPA Questionnaire

Name: Andrew McGrath _____

Email: _____
How Long have you been a member? I've been a member from the start of our NEHBPA _____
Check all that apply: Are you an Owner ___ Y Trainer ___ Y Breeder ___ Other _____
Are you Retired Yes _____
When did you start in the industry 1952 _____?
Some of your career highlights:

Winning Races

If you lost your Health and Welfare Benefits what would it mean to you?
I'm on a fixed income and I struggle with all the expenses of Drs and medications. If I lose the Old Age Assistance I will have a difficult time putting food on my table.

The standardbreds currently receive 65 percent of the Race Horse Development Fund (RHDF) and now want 95 percent, virtually wiping out thoroughbred purses, breeding and health and welfare benefits. Why should there be no changes in the RHDF Split? If the Standardbreds take any more of our RHDF we will lose all investors and any chance of rebuilding our industry as well as the Breeding Industry in the Commonwealth. Losing Health and Welfare will cause myself and a lot of my fellow horsemen who have come to depend on these benefits Major Hardships. Please do not make any adjustments to the split.

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: noahamari74 <noahamari74@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustments of the split

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I ask the committee to keep the split the same and unchanged for the remainder of this year so that the thoroughbred track can move forward with the investors reassured that the committee is doing all it can to bring a state of the art race track to the commonwealth. The MassTHA with Bill Lagrio and Paddy Reardon have left no stone unturned for the realization of this complex. I ask that the committee stand with the hundreds of active horsemen to accomplish this by having the split remain the same. Thank You,

Sincerely Angel Lopez (second generation exercise rider, and horsemen.)

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S10+.

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: lap352 <lap352@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustment of the split

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Committee Member, As a horsewoman and life long trainer I am looking forward to racing in Massachusetts, I ask that the committee vote to have the split remain the same to insure the support of this committee's commitment of thoroughbred track in MA. The substantial private investment and legislation needs the split to remain the same. The MassTHA with all it's active member are all lined up and are in full support of the North Shore complex. Thank you for your dedication to the successful mission. Laura Paynter , life long jockey / trainer.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Rusty Shaw <jockeyshaw1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustment to split

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to ask the gaming committee to keep the split between the standardbreds and the thoroughbreds the same . I am a jockey an I want to come back to Massachusetts. Bill Lagorio and Paddy Reardon have brought this proposal forward to being a reality with the investment of 80 million dollarsin a new track. MassTHA has worked hard and constantly with no funding, please let this play out and keep the split the same for all the active horsemen of the MASS THA and their hundreds of member. Thank You Russ Shaw Life time Horseman

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Thomas Frasca <tcfrasca@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 7:04 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustment to Split Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a member of Mass. Thoroughbred Horseman's Association, as a farm owner, breeder and trainer the loss of racing in Massachusetts has been more than devastating. As a result I was forced to relocate my racing operation to PA. If the split is not left as is we will never see racing return to Massachusetts.
PLEASE DO NOT do away with our portion of the purse split.

Thank You,
Tom Frasca
Millis MA

Sent from my iPad

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: paddy reardon <bodababie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 6:25 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Adjustment of the split

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for asking for my opinion on this matter. I ask the Committee to please hold the split as it is right now. Before the end of this year we will know the outcome on two proposals for a brand new racing vacility in the Commonwealth. Both venues are counting on the split to remain the same in order for their 80 plus million dollar investment and over 300 million dollar investment to have the support of the state by maintaining the RHDF split for the supply of purse money that will go directly to the horsemen being owners ,trainers, farmers ,breeders , black smiths, grooms, veterinarians etc. We have worked very hard over these years with ups and downs but never veering from our ultimate goal of having a racing facility in the state of Massachusetts once again. I ask that you keep the split as it is for to see how this plays out in the legislature to the end of the year. For the MASS THA has active horsemen that want to come home and the farms eagly waiting for their arrival .Thank You Paddy Reardon

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Amanda Carlin <acarlin924@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Horse racing splits for gaming proceeds

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Pleasedo not change the splits in the middle of this pandemic give the Thoroughbred people a chance a chance to build another race track which they have no chance of doing right now to take all the money away from them now would be extremely prejudiced. Thank you

Amanda Carlin
Former Horsemen's Bookkeeper Suffolk Downs
Owner trainer breeder in Ma since 1971

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Randomdancer1 <randomdancer1@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 9:46 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Cc: Randomdancer1@aol.com; jajohnson@infiniteenergy.com
Subject: Adjustment to the Split comment - May 14th meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

As a supporter of the Massachusetts Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, I am writing to request that you preserve the current purse split between Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing interests.

This funding is necessary and needed to continue to explore, lock down or put together a new racing facility for Thoroughbred racing in the state of Massachusetts. A permanent loss of Thoroughbred racing in the state is unacceptable and the revenue generated from the para mutual revenue share of Thoroughbred racing is not to be treated lightly.

Please give this topic due consideration at your next meeting and vote in favor of continuing the funding split as it stands at this time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A Johnson
Thoroughbred horse owner and breeder
(352) 213-1324

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Bob Vein <bvein8@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Mass Thoroughbreds

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

we need them please

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Howie DePetrillo <depo99@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Horsemen

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We have horses in other parts of the country but it is not like seeing a live race. The trainers take care of their horses and the state needs to bring them back and save the industry in Massachusetts. Please think carefully when making a decision that mean jobs for the state.

Thank you
Howard Depetrillo
Sent from my iPhone

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Juan <jcvilla21@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Hi

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a member and or a support of The Massachusetts Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Sent from my iPhone

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: JEFFREY THIERFELD <jcact@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Cc: imcind1; Paul Umbrello
Subject: Adjustment to Split Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Shara N. Bedard,

The purpose of this Email message is to express our concern in regards to the Massachusetts Race Horse Development fund Adjustment to Split in favor of the standards bred.

Since year 2015, we have been percentage owners (and huge fans) of thoroughbred Horse Racing. In recent years we have owned percentage partnerships in well over 20 thoroughbred race horses.

Please note that we sincerely believe that *any change or adjustment in the split would be detrimental to the thoroughbred industry*. Furthermore, the negative impact would be felt not only at the farms, but will affect the stable and groom employees as well. These people are truly dedicated workers who meticulously care for these exceptional race horses.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,

Cindy & Jeff Thierfeld,
Portland, Connecticut

May 3, 2020

Dear Massachusetts Gaming Commission:

I am writing in a continuing effort to restore Thoroughbred horse racing and breeding to Massachusetts. A race track is needed to bring the Thoroughbred industry back to Massachusetts, thus providing many jobs for all the individuals and other industries associated with breeding and racing Thoroughbred horses. After years of nothing happening, there are three individuals who are interested in investing in a Thoroughbred race track in this state. The Racehorse Development Fund was part of the package presented to these investors. To remove the availability of this fund would make it less advantageous to invest millions here. Please give us a chance to go forward with an investment that would provide a Thoroughbred race track, restoring this industry, which would in turn benefit the whole state.

Sincerely,

Lee Loebelenz

MTHA Member

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: Mike Ciampa <mikeciampa4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 7:50 AM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: 'Adjustment to the split comment" in the subject line.

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am a horse owner and a member and supporter of The Massachusetts Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. On May 14th there is a meeting of the Split Committee, and the Standardbreds are attempting to take 100% of the purse money, leaving us with nothing and no chance of building a new facility. It is very important to the future of our industry to leave the split as is at this time.

Our industry (Thoroughbred) was the driving force behind the creation of The Race Horse Development Fund. Our simulcast signals kept Standardbred racing alive, and now while we are struggling to put a new track together they are putting a foot to our throats.

So once again I stress the importance for the future of our industry to leave the split as is at this time.

Thank you!

**Mike Ciampa
Thoroughbred owner and member of the Massachusetts Thoroughbred Horsemen's Assoc.**

Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)

From: edwin vazquez <edwinvazquez167@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 5:34 PM
To: Bedard, Shara N. (MGC)
Subject: Rhdf split

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Concerned about the split, I am a member of the Mass THA and would like the split to remain the same so as to have the investors in the two proposed race tracks know that purse funding is there for them to invest in a brand new track. Billy Lagorio and Paddy Reardon have worked long and hard with no funding . They never lost sight of the reality of racing in Massachusetts. Please give them and the horse men the remaining time to bring this together. Those 2 people have earned it. Please keep the split as is for now. Thank you Edwin Vazquez ,second generation Massachusetts Horseman .