



June 3, 2014

Chuck Trout, Executive Director
Texas Racing Commission
P.O. Box 12080
Austin, TX 78711-2080

Dear Director Trout,

It has come to our attention that the Texas Racing Commission may vote next week on a request by gambling operators to authorize so-called “Historic Racing” gambling machines. We urge you to reject this request and not publish these proposed rule changes in the Texas Register for further consideration.

These proposed rules are an obvious attempt to legalize slot machines in Texas using the backdoor to circumvent the Legislature. The Commission does not have the authority to authorize these electronic gambling machines without legislative approval because they do not constitute a form of pari-mutuel wagering. In the words of a 2006 ruling by the Wyoming Supreme Court:

“We agree with the district court’s tacit conclusion that we are not dealing with a new technology here, we are dealing with a slot machine that attempts to mimic traditional pari-mutuel wagering. Although it may be a good try, we are not so easily beguiled.”

The similarities between Texas’ and Wyoming’s situations are clear, with one major exception: in Texas, gambling expansion is expressly forbidden by the Texas constitution, except when approved by constitutional amendment. Not even the legislature can lawfully expand gambling alone, much less a state agency. This proposal to add slot-like machines to racetracks is nothing but a poke in the eye to the people of Texas and their constitution.

Further, it is a major policy decision to bail out commercial greyhound racing with other forms of gambling. Policy in this area should be set by elected lawmakers in the wide open, after a robust and full legislative debate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Carey M. Theil
Executive Director
GREY2K USA Worldwide

Les Bernal
National Director
Stop Predatory Gambling
Washington, DC

Rodger Weems
Chairman
Stop Predatory Gambling Texas

From: Ralph Arnold

June 4,2014

Texas Racing Commission

Chuck Trout, Executive Director

P O Box 12080

Austin Texas 78711

Dear Commissioners:

As a licensed participant in the Texas racing industry, I ask that you approve the proposed rules which regulate pari-mutuel wagering on historical racing. I believe that the technology will be beneficial to Texas racing, as it has been in other racing states where technology is being used.

Thank you,

Kathy Stephens Arnold

LaVernia Texas