

Comments on Proposed Repeal of Historical Racing Rules

Comment Period: January 1, 2016 - January 31, 2016

Summary of Public Comments on Proposed Repeal of Rules Related to Historical Racing

Multiple proposed amendments related to the repeal of rules authorizing and regulating historical racing at licensed Texas horse and greyhound racetracks were published in the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period on Jan. 1, 2016. Though the public comment period officially ran from Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, since Jan. 31 fell on a Sunday, staff continued to accept comments through Feb. 1. A total of nearly 1,000 comments were received during this period in the form of letters, emails, and faxes. All but one of the comments were in opposition to the proposed repeal of the historical racing rules. The vast majority of the comments summarized in this document (about 95 percent) were form letters and emails. Please see below for examples and totals.

Letter in FAVOR of Repeal

TRADITIONAL
COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN
Estavio Elizondo, Menikapeh

SECRETARY
David Valdez, Sr., Pietootitika

TREASURER
David Treviño, Wepikacola

MEMBERS
Kendall R. Scott, Metzax
Naniate Herasandez, Naantea

KICKAPOO
TRADITIONAL
TRIBE OF TEXAS

2012 Reddy Valley Rd.
Eagle Pass, Texas 78822



TRIBAL COUNCIL

January 15, 2016

Mary Welch, Assistant to the Executive Director
Texas Racing Commission
P.O. Box 12080
Austin, Texas 78711-2080
Via: Mail and Facsimile: 513-833-6907

Re: Comment on Texas Racing Commission's Proposal to Repeal Void Rules that Attempted to Illegally Authorize Gambling Machine Wagering

Dear Ms. Welch:

I am writing on behalf of the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas to comment on the Texas Racing Commission's proposal, set forth in 41 Tex. Reg. 60-71, to repeal the void so-called "historical" racing rules that it adopted on August 29, 2014. See 39 Tex. Reg. 7573 *et seq.* (Sept. 19, 2014).

Those rules included amendments to existing regulations at 16 Texas Administrative Code ("TAC") sections 301.1, 303.31, 303.42, 309.8, 309.297, 309.299, 309.361, 321.5, 321.12, 321.13, 321.25, 321.25, and 321.27, and also added new provisions purporting to authorize so-called "historical" racing at 16 TAC sections 321.701-321.719, with conforming amendments to other rules. 39 Tex. Reg. 7573 *et seq.*

The District Court of Travis County, Texas signed a Final Judgment on December 3, 2014, which granted the Plaintiffs' Joint Motion for Summary Judgment challenging the rules and declared the Commission's historical racing rules to exceed the Commission's authority under the Texas Racing Act, Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. Ann. Art 179e, and to be invalid. The Commission did not appeal that Judgment, and it became final as to the Commission. The so-called "historical racing" rules, therefore, are currently void, of no legal effect and no longer exist, and there is no need for the Commission to act but for clerical purposes. The Tribe supports the Commission's removal of the historical racing rules as a clerical measure to ensure the Texas Administrative Code reads accurately and supports this effort of the Commission to rid the Code of void rules.

Sincerely,

Estavio Elizondo
Chairman

Letters and Emails OPPOSED to Repeal

January 31, 2016

VIA EMAIL AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Texas Racing Commissioners
c/o Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Drive
Austin, TX 78754

RE: COMMENTS OF SAM HOUSTON RACE PARK, VALLEY RACE PARK, AND LAREDO RACE PARK ON PROPOSED REPEAL OF HISTORICAL RACING RULES

Dear Commissioners:

As a member of the Texas racing community, it is fair to surmise that we continue to oppose the proposed repeal of the historical racing rules published in the Texas Register earlier this year.

As I sat down to write this letter, I was reminded of the very FIRST letter sent to you on this subject on May 27, 2014 - more than one and one half years ago. In that letter, the entire industry – every racetrack, every breed organization, every greyhound and horse industry association - united to ask the Commission and the Special Advisory Committee on Pari-Mutuel Wagering to adopt rules regulating historical racing in Texas. As I am sure you have experienced in your businesses, there are few times whereby every single segment of an industry comes together to agree on something of such significance.

In preparation for this letter to you, I reviewed every letter and meeting transcript and decided to reflect on why in the world we are potentially coming before the Commission on this subject yet again. That review reminded me of the hope that the prospect of historical racing provided the industry - an industry decimated by more than a decade of declines. That hope is provided for you by way of a compilation of prior comments I have included with this letter that our newest Commissioners may never have seen. For Commissioners who have seen them before, my hope is that it is a reminder to you of that hope and a reminder of the shot in arm this new technology would provide if it were to ever be implemented.

Despite rhetoric from supporters and those opposed, what strikes me as unusual is why are we still discussing a matter that remains pending before the Third Court of Appeals, the appropriate venue for this technology to be considered. No industry group is currently pursuing an installation of historical racing because until the courts resolve this matter it simply, as a matter of law, is prohibited from doing so. Allowing the rules to remain in place does no harm. The rules should be given fair and due process and not ripped from the industry prematurely.

FACT: The Commission's own general counsel determined that historical racing was within the Commission's broad grant of authority when this matter was first considered. In numerous public meetings since he has maintained this position. We, as an industry, agree with him. Further, various other legal opinions, including one from retired Supreme Court Justice Scott Brister, agree with him.

FACT: Since your decision last summer, the law on this issue has not changed. Neither have the facts supporting the Commission's policy decision to adopt the historical racing rules. No legislation was passed during the recent session to impede or restrict historical racing, despite much attention and

scrutiny on the Commission's activities from a few members. In fact, no proposals to limit historical racing were even *filed*, much less enacted as *new* law.

FACT: The Commission has received letters from legislators supporting the historical racing efforts and claims that your actions were contrary to the will of legislature as a whole are unfounded. These letters should be considered and given weight in this process.

FACT: The only development since the historical racing rules were adopted that casts any doubt on the Commission's authority is a district court decision that is being appealed and may ultimately be reversed. **Our only request has been and continues to be that the Commission should await the outcome of that legal process before making any changes, and should not throw away all the work and resources that have been invested by prematurely abandoning rules that are so critical for the industry.**

FACT: Numbers do not lie. Since 2014, letters from hardworking Texans, industry groups representing tens of thousands of horsemen and horsewomen and dozens of letters from racetracks who represent thousands of jobs have literally flooded your office asking you to support and continue to support the rules regulating historical racing in Texas. During one recent re-posting of the rule for possible repeal, just ONE letter in favor of a repeal was received by the Commission. **By our accounts, more than 20,000 comments are now on record supporting the rules regulating historical racing in Texas.**

Commissioners, the prudent approach in this case is simple and it is fair. The Commission should await the outcome of the legal process and decline to take any action until it has more definitive guidance. In closing, we ask that you weigh these facts carefully and thoughtfully against those that will surely develop between the date of this letter and any potential future vote by the Commission on this subject. Our industry has and continues to stand on call to work with those who have concerns about the rules yet wish to help the industry. Healthy disagreement and debate can lead to compromise, but only when both parties are willing to work together in a timely and constructive fashion - something we remain hopeful is possible.

Sincerely,



Andrea B. Young, President
Sam Houston Race Park
Valley Race Park
Laredo Race Park

TRC STAFF NOTE

Attached to the January 31, 2016, letter from Andrea Young are comments and documents previously submitted in connection with the original adoption of the historical racing rules in 2014 and in connection with the previously posted proposal to repeal the rules in 2015. These include:

- The original request letter from the racing industry dated May 27, 2014, petitioning for the proposal of rules authorizing and regulating pari-mutuel wagering on historical racing. A copy of this letter may be found online at: <http://www.txrc.texas.gov/agency/meetings/packets/p20140610.pdf> beginning on page 20, where it was part of the June 10, 2014, Commission meeting packet. The letter sets out the history of the development of the proposed rules, describes the competitive disadvantage that Texas racing has in comparison to other states, and describes the positive financial effects that historical racing would have on Texas racing stakeholders. The petition is signed by representatives of every racetrack and every horse and greyhound organization.
- Various letters of support for the initial proposal of historical racing rules. These were also part of the June 10, 2014, Commission meeting packet and may be found online at <http://www.txrc.texas.gov/agency/meetings/packets/p20140610.pdf> beginning on page 69. The letters frequently describe the authors' interest and/or experience in racing and always express support for historical racing. Some of the letters were signed by or on behalf of industry organizations.
- Comments in response to the publication of the proposed rules in the June 27, 2014, issue of the *Texas Register*. These letters were part of the public comments packet for the August 28, 2014, Commission meeting. They may be found online at: http://www.txrc.texas.gov/agency/meetings/materials/20140728_PublicComments.pdf. These include:
 - A detailed letter from Ms. Young in which she addresses the decline in horse racing and projects that historical racing will increase purses in Texas by approximately 40% and increase the state's total economic activity by \$500 to \$600 million. Ms. Young's letter also responds to issues raised by bingo advocates by denying that there is any evidence that historical racing will have a negative impact on bingo operations. Ms. Young's letter addresses legislative press releases and the request for an attorney general's opinion by Rep. Dan Flynn by pointing out perceived inaccuracies in those documents. The letter also requests two technical corrections to the proposed rules, which the Commission agreed to make.
 - A letter submitted by Bill Moltz on behalf of several racetracks in support of the proposed rules and agreeing with the request for changes made by Ms. Young.
 - Letters in support of the proposed rules by the Texas Horsemen's Partnership and the Texas Quarter Horse Association.
 - A letter in opposition to the proposed rules from the Senate Republican Caucus which is signed by 15 State Senators. The letter challenges the Commission's authority to adopt the rules and asserts that the subject should be reserved for the Legislature's consideration.

- A letter signed by representatives of the Texas Arabian Breeders Association, the Texas HBPA, the Texas Paint Horse Association, the Texas Quarter Horse Association, the Texas Thoroughbred Association, and the Texas Thoroughbred HBPA disagreeing with the letter from the Senate Republican Caucus. This letter maintains that the Commission does have the authority to adopt the rules and points out the dire economic circumstances of the racing industry. There is also a similar, separate letter from the Texas Greyhound Association.
- Letters of support for historical racing from economic development organizations and municipalities, including the Texas Association of Business, the Franklin-Simpson Chamber of Commerce, the City of Grand Prairie, and the City of Flores.
- A letter from Gaming Laboratories International asserting that any wagering conducted under the proposed rules would comply with the pari-mutuel system of wagering.
- Several letters of support from individual industry stakeholders.
- Documentation of several petitions in support of the rules endorsed by over 11,000 individuals and one petition in opposition endorsed by 548 individuals.
- Documentation of the Public Comment Hearing held on June 17, 2014, at which 410 comments were submitted in support of the rules and 161 comments were submitted in opposition. In addition, 58 individuals spoke in support of the rules and 5 spoke in opposition.
- A letter from Representative Alonzo supporting the Commission's efforts to use its powers to help the racing industry.
- Comments in response to the proposed repeal of historical racing published in the June 26, 2105, issue of the *Texas Register*. These letters were part of the public comments packet for the August 25, 2015, Commission meeting. They may be found online at: <http://www.txrc.texas.gov/agency/meetings/materials/2015CommentsOnProposedRepealHistoricalRacingRules.pdf>. These include:
 - Letters from State Representatives Turner, Davis, Howard, and Rodriguez stating that Rider 7 funding should not be viewed as contingent on repeal of the historical racing rules.
 - A letter from Representative Moody in support of historical racing.
 - A legal brief prepared on behalf of the Texas Thoroughbred HBPA in support of the Commission's authority to adopt the historical racing rules. This brief was prepared by former Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott Brister.
 - Letters in opposition to the repeal of the historical racing rules from: the Texas Greyhound Association; the Texas Thoroughbred Association; the Texas Horsemen's Partnership; the Jockeys' Guild; and Sam Houston, Valley, and Laredo Race Parks.
 - Documentation of several petitions in opposition to repeal of the rules endorsed by 756 individuals.



TEXAS HORSEMEN'S PARTNERSHIP, LLP

2016 FEB -1 PM 1:51

February 1, 2016
Mr. Chuck Frott
Executive Director
Texas Racing Commission

Dear Chuck:

As the comment period for the proposed repeal of the rules relating to Historical Racing comes to a close, I would like to express my sincere opposition to the Commissioners taking this up for yet another vote.

The Commissioners obviously feel that they have the authority, to not only adopt the rules, but to keep the rules in place. Three times they have voted on the rule package. Once to adopt and twice to vote down a proposed repeal.

This leaves us with only one remaining issue. Our regulatory agency is being coerced by an unconstitutional action by a legislative body. The Texas Horsemen's Partnership has initiated legal action to seek relief and to allow the agency to be funded, free of that coercion.

Until such time as we have our opportunity to be heard in the Travis County District Court, the Texas Racing Commission has no compelling reason to take up another vote to repeal the Historical Racing rules. Until the legal argument has been heard and subsequently ruled on, the rules should be left in place.

No harm is being done to the agency by allowing the Texas Horsemen's Partnership to proceed with arguments regarding the unconstitutional actions by the LBB and by allowing the agency to continue operations until such time as the court issues a ruling.

The horsemen and women that our organization represents, deserve the right to oppose the abuse of power that has and continues to cause them harm. Withholding funding from the agency that regulates our industry, causes irreparable harm, to tens of thousands of people outside of the agency's day to day operations.

The Texas Horsemen's Partnership implores the Texas Racing Commission, to once again, reject the proposed repeal of the rules on Historical Racing.

Sincerely,

Marsha Rountree
Executive Director
Texas Horsemen's Partnership, LLP

2016 JAN 25 PM 3:06

JANUARY, 25, 2016

Chuck Trout
Executive Director
Texas Racing Commission
PO Box 12080
Austin, Texas 78711-2080

Dear Mr. Trout

I want to express my thanks to the Racing Commission for its foresight on approving Historical Racing at the tracks in Texas. Also for not folding to the bullying pressure of the senator and Lieutenant Governor to remove the rules making Historical Racing possible.

The Racing Industry should have the right to go thru the appeals process that is available to other industries and individuals in the state of Texas. Even our Attorney General is using it.

Please continue to support the industry by not repealing the Historical Racing Rules.

Sincerely,



W E Wilson

TEXAS
RACING
COMMISSION

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

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my opinion opposing the repeal of the Historical Racing rules and asking that the rules be kept in place!

My family is involved in the ownership of racehorses and in the business of breeding our mares in Texas. The fact that our own officials are unwilling to protect, sustain and do everything possible to make our wonderful horse industry thrive, as in other states is appalling!

I have many friends who are involved in the selling of feed, hay, and vet supplies etc... wonderful people that work behind the scenes, just because they love the horse. The economic impact for some would be devastating, and for all heartbreaking.

Let's do the right thing for a change and take care of our own. We need Historical Racing.

Sincerely,

Lisa and Ed Macelik
H L Southard



January 7, 2016

Texas Racing Commission
Chuck Trout, Executive Director
PO Box 12080
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Commissioners:

Please do not repeal the rules regarding Historical Racing as thousands of Texans asked for these rules to give horse racing in Texas a chance to survive. I am a fan of Texas horse racing, and even though I have no financial interest in the Texas horse industry, I went from San Antonio to Austin in 2014 to speak and show my support for these rules and went again to show my support in August 2015.

Technically these rules are meaningless until the commission approves terminals at a track. Repealing these rules at this time will almost certainly prevent the supporters of these rules from getting their day in court. Please allow the courts to decide this issue.

Texas horsemen and women deserve an opportunity to move towards a more level playing field with other states to protect Texas jobs – both those directly involved in the industry and in those businesses that support or benefit from the industry.

Your panel exists specifically to oversee and protect the Texas racing industry. Please rise above the petty politics and do what you know is right. If these rules are repealed at this time you may see an even more rapid decline in an already shrinking industry and the disappearance of legalized pari-mutuel horse racing in Texas.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support of Texas racing and for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Marke".

Michael S. Marke

2015 JAN 10 PM 1:17

D. G. MILLIGAN, M. D.

PROCESSED
BY THE
COMMISSION

11 January 2016

Dear Mr. Front,

I am a small time thoroughbred owner.
I currently have a 4 year old mare in training
at the Fair grounds in New Orleans. She is
a Texas-bred and has won a \$80,000 lifetime
society at Lone Star Park, Retam Park, and
Sam Houston Park.

I support Historical Racing and feel the
shrewdness lawsuit to support it more via the
TRC is appropriate. My name would have
quietly increased her prize winnings had the
Historical Racing machines been in place at Texas Tracks.

Furthermore, this is more alone by
provided part - a significant part of the livelihood -
of my business, at least 25-30,000 per year
income; my feed store supplies, at least 3,000
per year in feed and vet supplies; my farrier - at least
\$1,700 - 2,000 per year in horseshoeing; at least 1,500
per year for the lounge also feeds my horses at home
while I attend the mare's needs.

D. G. MULLIGAN, M. D.

2.

These expenses are just for one mare -
I give you an idea of the economic impact
of one horse bred in Texas.

I also have an 8 month old colt, Poco
bred, also appears to have great potential,
but likely will have to sell him in Louisiana
if Historical Racing is done down away with by
the TRC. Otherwise, it is not economically
feasible to run him in Texas.

If you multiply my plight by many
many thousands of owners in Texas, veterinarians,
peppers, stud farm workers, etc. surely you
can understand the economic impact on us
all.

Please add my small voice in support of
TRC retaining Historical Racing.

Thank you!

Douglas Mulligan, M.D.

2016 JAN 12 PM 2:50

TEXAS RACING
COMMISSION

January 08, 2016

Jill Dawson
4934 Apache Ln
Crosby, Tx 77532-7117
(H) 281-421-2906
(c) 832-746-0165
dawoss321@aol.com

Chuck Trout
Executive Director
Texas Racing Commission
P.O. Box 12080
Austin, Tx 78711

Subject: The Destruction of Horse Racing In Texas

Dear Mr. Trout,

I don't know all the legalistic's of the historical racing rules which is the center of the fight for our horse racing industry in Texas, however, I think it's appalling how some of the people in charge are doing their best to destroy the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse Racing in this state. We fought for years to get legal racing in this state and now that we have it, we're having to fight to keep it viable. Every state surrounding us has VLT's or some form of gambling to boost the purses for the tracks in their states, but not Texas. For some reason, ignorance overrules our legislator's in this state and our owners, trainers, jockey's, breeder's, track workers, and entire industry suffers for it. Why does Texas have to always be the last on board for EVERYTHING? Please explain to me why you want to destroy horsing racing in this state? I want to get back in the industry, however, why should I do it in Texas when nobody in charge cares what happens to horse racing in Texas. Good stallions are moving out of Texas to other states, we've lost our sales because of the indecision in this state. What is it going to take to correct the dismantlement of Horse Racing in the State of Texas?

Sincerely,



Jill Dawson



2016 JAN 29 PM 4:33

1/29/16 1:10

Texas Paint Horse Association, PO Box 163794, Fort Worth, TX 76161

January 29, 2016

Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Dr. #110
Austin, TX 78754

Dear Commissioners:

Members of the Texas Paint Horse Breeders Association see Historical Racing as the necessary shot in the arm to keep horse racing alive in Texas. Please do not repeal the rules regarding Historical Racing. We understand the immense pressure on the Commissioners and the Agency. We know that there are thousands of Texans that support the rules and need your help to keep our industry from dying.

Please do not let the horsemen and women in Texas down by repealing the rules of Historical Racing.

Sincerely,

Lex Smurthwaite
Executive Director
Texas Paint Horse Breeders Association

Cc: Pancho Villarreal



January 29, 2016

Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Dr. #110
Austin, TX 78754

Dear Commissioners:

Racing Members of the American Paint Horse Association see Historical Racing as the necessary shot in the arm to keep horse racing alive in Texas. Please do not repeal the rules regarding Historical Racing. We understand the immense pressure on the Commissioners and the Agency. We know that there are thousands of Texans that support the rules and need your help to keep our industry from dying.

Please do not let the horsemen and women in Texas down by repealing the rules of Historical Racing.

Sincerely,

Karen Utecht
Director of Racing
American Paint Horse Association



2016 JAN 28 PM 4:54

1 28 2016 4:54 PM
1000

January 27, 2016

Rolando Pablos
Chairman, Texas Racing Commission
P.O. Box 12080
Austin, Texas 78711-2080

Dear Chairman Pablos,

The Texas Quarter Horse Association urges you to uphold the passing and three subsequent votes of confidence by the Texas Racing Commission for Historic Racing Rules.

At the December 15, 2015 Commission meeting, we asked commissioners not to repeal Historic Racing Rules. Thankfully, the Commission voted once again not to repeal. However, they also made it very clear to industry representatives we should do our best to meet with state leaders and persuade them and the LBB to release funds, funds that were appropriated by HB 1 during the 2015 legislative session, to the Commission. We have done our level best to schedule meetings to no avail.

It is our opinion state leaders want to force the Texas Racing Commission to repeal HRT rules at the February 9th meeting by refusing to meet with industry representatives and address our concerns.

Thousands of men, women and children whose families are involved in the equine industry are counting on you.

Thank you very much. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. I also plan to attend the February 9th meeting.

Sincerely,

Rob Werstler
Director of Racing

TO:
Rolando Pablos, Chair
Gary P. Aber, DVM
Ronald F. Ederer, Vice-Chair
Margaret Martin
Robert Schmidt, MD
John T. Steen, III

The Racing Commission website does not supply us with individual contact information. I do hope the Commission office shares emails with you.

My family has been involved with horse racing in Texas since the 1980's. We lived thru the dirt track years and were exciting when pari-mutual tracks opened. We know first hand how much money we leave on the table by running in Texas. YOU have the chance to help our industry survive by enhancing the PARI-MUTUAL opportunities that come with Historic Racing Terminals. We encourage you to stand up for the horse racing industry and not bow to the pressures of those special interest funded politicians who threaten to hold funding which comes from within the industry - not as some gift from the state.

I am totally disgusted with our state officials including Abbott, Patrick and Nelson. Please restore our faith in anything to do with Texas government by supporting the racing industry.

Regards,

Suzan Cordeff Knox

ROBERT E. & PATRICIA C. ORTH
12315 LANNY LANE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077

VIA EMAIL

January 29, 2016

Texas Racing Commission
P. O. Box 12080
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Racing Commissioners:

My wife and I have been in the Thoroughbred racing business since 1997 and had the pleasure of running our first two horses in their opening seasons of racing at Sam Houston, Lone Star and Retama Park.

We own interests in typically 4 – 6 horses of racing age and also have on occasion bred or co-bred mares. Although small in terms of stable size we nonetheless have been ardent supporters of Texas racing and have done our part to pump money into Texas racing. In addition to contracting the services of Texas vets, truck haulers and breeding/training farms, our guest list was always "large" (resulting in lots of money being spent at the track) when a horse of ours ran at one of the Texas tracks. We are sustaining members of the Texas Thoroughbred Association.

In the past few years we have been for the most part absent from the Texas racing scene. Out of necessity we have moved to the Louisiana/Arkansas/Oklahoma circuit. Our Texas mare has been sold and we spend very little for any Texas racing-based services. In order to stay in the business we had no choice but to take this action; even in good years (based on racing wins) we could barely break even racing in Texas. In the past two weeks we were fortunate to win a race at Fair Grounds in New Orleans. The "pot" was \$41,000, meaning our share was \$24,600. This type of scenario is not available anymore to horse owners in Texas.

We would love to return to Texas racing full-time. We live a short 25 minute drive from Sam Houston! At this point the only way for racing in Texas to return to some level of competitiveness is to continue the push and succeed in having Historical Racing approved and become part of the Texas racing scene. We urge you to continue to keep the rules in place and let's push Historical Racing to the finish line!

Thank you for your consideration.





January 25, 2016

Texas Racing Commission
PO Box 12080
Austin, TX 78711-2080

Dear Commissioners,

The Texas Thoroughbred Association strongly opposes the measure published in the Texas Register seeking to repeal rules authorizing and regulating historical racing.

The Texas racing industry is in severe decline and on the verge of disappearing altogether. As the Commission is well-aware, Texas horses, horsemen, and associated service industries are being forced to leave Texas and take their business to other states that supplement purses with proceeds from gambling activities that are illegal in Texas.

The prospect of historical racing in Texas is the only thing providing hope to our struggling industry. We firmly believe that historical racing provides a means of pari-mutuel wagering and falls within the Commission's scope of authority under current law.

The only development since the historical racing rules were adopted that casts any doubt on the Commission's authority is a district court decision that is being appealed and may ultimately be reversed. We believe the Commission should await the outcome of that legal process before making any changes, and should not throw away all the work and resources that have been invested by prematurely abandoning rules that are so critical for the industry.

On behalf of the more than 1,100 Texas Thoroughbred Association members, we respectfully urge the Commission not to move forward with repealing historical racing rules.

Thank you,

Mary Ruyle
Executive Director

4009 Banister Lane, Suite 230 Austin, TX 78704
512.458.6133 Phone 512.453.5919 Fax
www.texasthoroughbred.com

"As a Texan and Fan" Letters: 111

Emails: 299

Dear Commissioners,

As a Texan and fan of Texas horse racing I ask you to vote against the repeal of the existing rules regulating historical racing in Texas. One need only look at a map to realize where the pressure to repeal is coming from. Casinos along our northern and eastern borders as well as the one in South Texas and the bingo parlors around our state enjoy a monopoly on Texan gaming dollars. Added to this, online Daily Fantasy Betting and two new casinos on Texas tribal lands all mean that Texans are already gambling to the tune of BILLIONS. Unfortunately, these interests spend quite a bit of money keeping the landscape devoid of competition.

But, don't worry! Historical racing machines aren't slot machines and can't compete with them. What they will do is bolster purses enough to keep our horse and racing industries alive for the foreseeable future. They may even help to bring some of the big races back to Texas.

Tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic impact are reliant on you standing firm and not caving to outside political pressure. I ask that you do what is right for the industry and Texas.

Please vote against repeal of the historical racing rules so that the court case may proceed and we can get some finality to this issue.

Yours Truly, 

"As a Texas Horseman" Letters: 92

Emails: 267

Dear Texas Racing Commissioners,

As a Texas Horseman, I am proud that you have repeatedly stood up to bullying by state leaders on behalf of powerful gambling interests. I write to ask you to, once again, vote against repealing the rules regulating historical racing.

Despite the fact that no terminals have been approved or could possibly be installed before the next legislative session, the very existence of the rules will allow us our day in court and (more importantly) hope for the future.

At stake are tens of thousands of jobs and the entire Texas Horse industry. Enough of you have stood strong for our industry to get us here and we ask that you continue to show this strength in the face of threats of de-funding the agency.

Rest assured, it will be well known that responsibility for the loss of jobs and closing of family farms around Texas (should these threats be realized) will rest squarely at the feet of those who have sought to subvert the constitutional process to realize their political goals.

Thanks again for doing the right thing, please vote one more time to defend the rules we worked for so long to get right.

Sincerely, 

“Please Do Not” Letters: 41

To: Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Dr, #110
Austin, TX 78754

2016 JAN 27 PM 4:20

January 7, 2016

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not repeal the Historical Racing rules you enacted last year. We've already been through this process and are just awaiting approval from the courts. Repealing these rules will do what even the drought couldn't do by ensuring that our industry disappears from Texas.

It is hard enough to be a horseman when the legislature only gives lip-service and no aid. Your panel exists specifically to oversee and protect the Texas racing industry, please rise above the petty politics of politicians and do what you know to be right.

Thank you for your continued support of Texas Racing.

Sincerely,

“Stand Tall” Letters: 14

COMMISSIONERS OF THE TEXAS

To: Texas Racing Commission

January 7, 2016

STATE OF TEXAS
SANTA ANA

8505 Cross Park Dr. #110
Austin, TX 78754

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask that you stand tall against those that seek to further dismantle the Texas horse industry. Repealing the rules regarding Historical Racing Terminals will only speed the stampede of horses over state lines into the ranches of our neighboring states.

Because there are still legal issues to be decided, I ask that you hold off on any repeal until after we have had our day in court. The rules do no harm as they are and serve as a mark of confidence in the industry you are in place to oversee.

As you know the horse industry in Texas is in steep decline and just can't sustain another attack at this time. The Legislature has not seen fit to come to our aid so I beg that you continue to stand by us in our time of need. A decision against us could be the straw that breaks this camel's back.

All we ask is an opportunity for a level playing field so that we may bring foals and jobs back to Texas.

Thanks in advance for your consideration in this matter.

"It is Necessary" Letters: 14

Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Drive #110
Austin, Texas 78754

2016 FEB -1 PM 3:10

COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION

Gentlemen,

It is necessary for the Commission to hold its ground in the dispute with the IBB. Please do not rescind the rules of historical racing. I believe you do have the authority to write the rules and rescinding them will destroy the horsemen's day in court.

"A Year Ago" Letters: 11

To: Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Dr. #110
Austin, TX 78754

2016 JAN 27 PM 4:22

January 7, 2016

COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION

Dear Texas Racing Commissioners,

A year ago you took a stand for the Texas horse industry. Now it is a year later and I know you are under political pressure from a powerful Senator to reverse your course. I ask you to stand by your decision and vote not to repeal the rules over historical racing.

No single office holder has the ability to decide an issue the Legislature chose not to address. And if there is any doubt about support for the Texas horse industry please look at the video from around three am on the night the Texas House adopted the budget. A line of Representatives from both parties stood at the back mic to ensure funding was continued despite the threats from the Senate.

Our politicians rely on out of state casinos for campaign money so it is little wonder that nothing has been done to level the playing field for our industry.

Again, please vote 'no' on the motion to repeal the historical racing rules.

Thank you.

"I'm Writing to Ask" Letters: 9

01/07/2016 PM 3:22

To: Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Dr. #110
Austin, TX 78754

January 7, 2016

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask that you not repeal the rules regarding Historical Racing. I understand the immense pressure Senator Nelson is exerting over your agency, but she is only one person and I ask that you listen to the thousands of Texans that asked for this rule in the first place.

Those that oppose Historical Racing have very transparent goals: They seek to destroy any chance of competition for the casinos in Louisiana and Oklahoma. I ask that you not allow a few billionaires to put the final nail in our coffin.

The Texas horse industry is against the ropes. Repealing these rules will almost certainly mean that we never get our day in court. If these rules are repealed I believe that you will see an even more rapid decline in an already shrinking industry.

I thank you in advance for your careful consideration and intestinal fortitude to stand up to bullies.

Sincerely, 

"For Over a Decade" Letters: 3

To: Texas Racing Commission
8505 Cross Park Dr. #110
Austin, TX 78754

2016 Jan 29 Fri 3:18 January 7, 2016

512-338-3346

Dear Commissioners,

For over a decade the Texas horse industry had been in decline due to competition from casino enhanced purses in our surrounding states. It doesn't take a genius to realize that we can't sustain such decline for much longer. Please, do not vote to repeal the historical racing rules as that will be a final nail in our coffin.

Creating those rules was well within your rights as a commission and I believe the court will agree but we have to get their first. Repealing will almost certainly end any chance we have to find out and will only serve to aid our opponents seeking to score political points.

This is about family farms and the continued decimation of an industry, not just one person's ideological goals. Losing the Texas horse industry will mean losing jobs and tons of potential economic development for our state. I ask you not to let Oklahoma and Louisiana win so easily.

Thanks,



"Oppose the Repeal..." Emails (40)



Tue 1/26/2016 3:18 PM

Historical Racing

To: info

I oppose the repeal of the Historical Racing Terminals and request the current rules be kept in place.

Sincerely
Arnold Lewis

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

Miscellaneous Emails (82)



Thu 1/28/2016 11:35 AM

Wes Melcher

Public Comment

To: info

This message was sent with High importance.

My name is Wes Melcher and I have probably made the biggest new individual contribution to the Texas Thoroughbred industry in the entire state. I have built a large facility in Sulphur Springs Texas and I am employing several people full time to care for over 125 horses currently. We have had a Texas Champion every year since I entered the industry three years ago. We also have brought a nationally acclaimed stallion to Texas that is a son of the number one sire in the world; Tapit. If you take away the rules you put into place last year it will eliminate any possibility of an appeal by horseman or the tracks. I strongly encourage you to reconsider this very public action that will literally kill the excitement and energy that you created last year. This is a response to political pressure from politicians receiving money from out of state casino interests. I don't know if you heard but Lanes End is dispersing its breeding stock. Assmusen Training center has recently dispersed all it's horses. Valor Farm is for sale and I will most likely follow their lead and close my brand facility later this year. I am planning on selling between 60-75 horses this fall due to the cancelled sales and bad news mounting here in Texas.

Sincerely,
Wes Melcher
TTA Board Member
Owner of Double Infinity Ranch

info

From: Victoria Dühring
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:50 PM
To: info; Jean Cook; Robert Elrod; Ricky Walker; Chuck Trout; Mark Fenner; Patricia Fitch Nalle; Joel Speight; Lila Smith; cathy.cantrell@txrc.texas.gov; John Perryman; Adrienne Courtner; Katie Severson; Curley L. Trahan; Jim Blodgett
Cc:
Subject: "My Texas Dandy" and "Texas Dandy"

Good afternoon,

On this day one year ago, we buried my grandfather, George Winston "Dick" Herndon; I write this to you today in honor of his memory.

My grandfather, his brothers, and his father, were all avid horse breeders and my great-grandfather was the very proud breeder and owner of both "My Texas Dandy" and "Texas Dandy" registered racehorses. My grandfather and his family spent a good portion of their lives at horse-racing events, and when they weren't there, they were at the family ranch just outside of Brackettville, Texas breaking, breeding, and utilizing horses on the ranch.

Please don't end the legacy of Texas Horse Racing! Uphold our rural values and ways of life!

Please vote against repealing the rules regulating historical racing!

"I, Victoria Lauren Dühring, a de Herados, oppose the repeal of the historical racing terminals and request the current rules be kept in place."

Best regards,
Victoria Dühring
PO Box 1371
Uvalde, Texas
78802



As a Texan and fan of Texas horse racing I ask you to vote against the repeal of the existing rules regulating historical racing in Texas. I am proud that you have repeatedly stood up to bullying by state leaders on behalf of powerful gambling interests. I write to ask you to, once again, vote against repealing the rules regulating historical racing.

At stake are tens of thousands of jobs and the entire Texas Horse industry. Enough of you have stood strong for our industry to get us here and we ask that you continue to show this strength in the face of threats of defunding the agency.

Thanks again for doing the right thing, please vote one more time to defend the rules we worked for so long to get right. Please vote against repeal of the historical racing rules!



Wed 1/13/2016 3:51 PM

Richard Zabel



??

To info

Action Items

How can you go the store in community and purchase 6 50.00 scratch offs for 300.00????? legally and you cant spend that same dam 300.00 in dammm slot or race terminal??? joke



Kevin Packer
Atten: Chuck Trout

To info

Action Items

+ Get more app

Mr. Trout,

I have been trying to keep up with the current information surrounding the Texas Racing Commission. I work in the Veterinary Pharmaceutical industry and many of my good friends and clients would be directly affected by any decision made on Horse Racing in Texas. Texas Racing isn't just about the race and the betting on a particular race, however.

The Racing industry touches so many areas of the Texas economy it would be hard to imagine what would happen if racing was unable to move forward in the State. I have seen what happened to just the veterinary industry in Oklahoma in recent years with respect to breeding of running horses. Its sharp decline, only due to economic stress in the state and country, made the Racing/Horse Breeding sector decline and many suffered loss of jobs and lower income because of the economic effects trickling down. I saw Veterinarians close their clinic doors due to lack of income from the industry decline.

People on the outside of the horse industry have no tangible view of what this state would be like without Texas horse breeding and Racing. It seems as though people think this Billion dollar industry, that helps the overall Texas economy, won't effect them. My thought is, most people now have no contact with the Agriculture sector as a whole and keep a very limited or narrow view of how it actually supports our economy. We need to show the majority of these people exactly what effect our industry plays on the Texas economy. Show how the Racing industry directly affects other related industries in Texas. What will be the overall Job loss? What will be the effect in the Veterinary Industry? Farriers, Trainers, grooms Track personnel workers, Breeding in the horse industry and how it will decline. ... and many more. What are the Tax implications for others outside of Texas racing if they were to have to make up a tax deficit left by a Billion dollar declining industry?

You see, its a shame that our majority of people have taken a view of "it won't affect me" attitude, including some people in the position of Government. I think it needs to be said in a clear and factual way that Texas was built on the Agricultural industry and it remains a pivotal point of the overall economy.

Those on the Governing Board over the Racing Commission have no need to let Texas Racing continue. They receive enough from their respective supporters. The conflict of interests alone should be used to remove such people from having an effect on what determines my industries economy. The fact that some people receive money for nothing other than a position they hold as a public servant should in no way determine or limit the amount of money I can make in my private sector job. The job description is to provide legislature that will improve quality of life for the people of Texas. They stopped being a representative when they took money or interest in something other than what would best benefit their constituents District.

Thank you for your time.

Kevin Packer
Account Manager



Attention Chuck Trout

To info

Bing Maps

Dear Mr. Trout,

I oppose the repeal of the historical Racing Terminals, and request the current rules be kept in place.

Sincerely,

Billie Glosser
Love N War Arabians
1220 Brewer Road
Van Alstyne, TX 75495



Thu 1/28/2016 12:55 PM

Sandra Richards

To info

Please vote against repeal of the historical racing rules so that the court case may proceed and we can get some finality to this issue.

Thank you
Sandra Richards



Wed 1/27/2016 1:52 PM

John Synowsky



To info

I oppose repeal of the Historical Racing rules.

John A. Synowsky
Champion Equine Performance Horses



Tue 1/26/2016 4:47 PM

Linda Tobias



To info

I oppose the repeal of the historical racing terminals and request the current rules be kept in place. I wasn't in favor of parimutual in the first place, but it is here. The racing industry in Texas will die without additional support. This means thousands of jobs as well as a big chunk of the agriculture industry.



TUE 1/26/2016 12:03 PM

Christine



To info

I oppose the repeal of the historic racing terminals and would like the rules to go unchanged. Please consider the effect this will have on so many racing families.

Sent from my iPhone



Thu 1/21/2016 8:47 PM



To info

I oppose the repeal of historical racing terminals. I'm a racetrack veterinarian and love my job. What's happening here politically disgusts me. Seriously, it's getting old and ridiculous. The largest state and one of the oldest sports and politicians getting their rocks off holding the Texas racing industry back. I'm sick of typing because I'm certain it's a waste of my damn time.

Disrespectfully,

-Outstanding Racetrack Practitioner who Wishes He were back in New Mexico

Sent from my iPhone



Fri 1/8/2016 11:39 AM

Terry Topham
Betting on Historical Races

To info

Bing Maps Action Items

+ Get more app

Commissioners,

My wife and I are 81 and 79 years old respectively. We have owned horses since our marriage in 1968. Our retirement pleasure revolves around racing in Texas. We have had an Arabian filly who my wife bred and raised on our place. She has been in race training and expect her to run this year. There are only a few states where Arabians race and we cannot afford to ship her to those states to run. We also enjoy attending races in Texas which will profit and grow with better purses. Other states have demonstrated positive results with the addition of betting on historical races. Texans who love or have horses are tired of watching fellow Texans and their money go to our neighboring states.

Please help your fellow Texans and give horse racing in Texas a shot in the arm. Vote "yes" to historical racing.

Terry and Janis Topham
Boerne, Tx



Delete Respond Quick Steps 5 Move Tags 5 Editing Zoom



Sun 1/24/2016 7:36 AM

pamsterJGS
Death of Texas Race Tracks

To info

Dear Mr. Trout,

It is a very sad time for horse racing enthusiasts throughout Texas! Without additional monies to create larger purses at the track, most horsemen can no longer afford to participate in this sport. Our costs to care for our horses and participate in these races, is the same as in surrounding states, where winning purses are larger, therefore able to offset expenses. The only horses able to pay their way, are the ones participating and winning the larger stakes races, which in reality are very few in comparison to the many attempting to win, at their own level of competitiveness! Horsemen are not asking for handouts or to participate in anything illegal according to the Constitution! Many of us have worked in the corporate world and simply don't understand why our hands are bound, when attempting to bring a failing business, into the 21st Century! Technology, technology, technology is here to stay, and if we want to remain competitive, we need to climb aboard. Historical racing terminals are not my cup of tea, however, will be for many fans and thereby contribute financial gains to a failing Texas industry. Even preschoolers are skilled at computers!

Personally, I prefer to be on the ground floor, feel the thundering hoofs, hear the cheering crowds and watch proudly as one of my home bred and raised horses, races to an exciting finish! However, that excitement quickly fades as reality sinks in once again...not enough purse money to make ends meet! The IRS will one day tear us apart for not having a profitable business! So, I ask, is it not my responsibility to make my business successful? Although I breed to the very best stallions, provide the very best care possible, select the best trainers etc., profits are at an all time low! Surrounding states not only offer better purses than Texas, but their horses come to Texas, competing in the few large stakes races we have, taking away even more of our limited money!

A couple of years ago, I interviewed prospective ranch hands, however, could not offer a salary competitive with the thriving oil industry! Needless to say, applicants declined my offer for the position! Now, these very same people are desperately seeking employment elsewhere, as prolific oilfield layoffs ensue due to a significant drop in oil prices! I am also very close to the oil industry, as my husband is an oil field contractor. With an uncertain future in oil production, it is crucial for my horse racing business to turn an immediate profit or quit! The Texas horse racing industry is in a downward spiral that can only be turned around with added revenue. Unlike others who rely solely on racing for income, I just have to shut down...and will survive! However, I left a prosperous position in healthcare to work fulltime with race horses. Finally, in my later years, working 365 days a year, in a job I truly love! Don't take that away!!

Please stand firm on your vote NOT to resend Historical Racing rules. At present, this is the only viable solution to our dying industry!

Thanks for everything you have done for the Texas racing industry!!

Pam Stone



Wed 1/27/2016 4:10 PM

carlos moore
DO NOT REPEAL HRT PLEASE

To info

It was not long ago, that my Grandpa explained to me SON, in his country we serve our country proudly..I served in Korea..TWO TOURS. My Father explained to me that to be proud American one should serve his country, like he did in Vietnam. My uncle explained the same. So my brother and I both served, Adan in Afghanistan and myself with the USAF in Desert Shield and Storm.

The VA recently called me in and said "you've been diagnosed PTSD since 1995, yet you take no medication, we refer to you as a 20 year" they wanted to know why....I said because I jog everyday and I tend to my horses. Well the VA orthopedic surgeon said my running was over...check your Texas History Sir, in 1990 I was a district champion in Caldwell county with a trip to regionals in the mile. Imagine this 44 year old in a wheel chair now...with only racing of his horse left to fill the gap....and now that's about to be taken from me too. Please help the horse racing industry stay healthy by approving HRTS, the only dream I have left is racing my six month old "were jus friends baby" Thoroughbred....I just received his jockey club papers....Regards, Carlos M.

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

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my opinion opposing the repeal of the Historical Racing rules and asking that the rules be kept in place!

My family is involved in the ownership of racehorses and in the business of breeding our mares in Texas. The fact that our own officials are unwilling to protect, sustain and do everything possible to make our wonderful horse industry thrive, as in other states is appalling!

I have many friends who are involved in the selling of feed, hay, and vet supplies etc...wonderful people that work behind the scenes, just because they love the horse. The economic impact for some would be devastating, and for all heartbreaking.

Let's do the right thing for a change and take care of our own. We need Historical Racing.

Sincerely,

Lisa and Ed Macalik
H L Southard



Tue 1/12/2016 6:56 PM

[Redacted]

February meeting request

info

[ling Maps](#)

Racing Chairman and Commissioners,

Please do not repeal your previous vote to allow Historical Racing Terminals. This is the right thing to do for our industry and it is vital we have your advocacy in Texas.

Trip Baker
Linda S. Baker
900 Behrens Rd
Colleyville, TX 76034



Robert Grunnah
Historic

To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more apps

Don't let the paid politicians govern our industry.

As a thoroughbred breeder and racing participant committed to racing in Texas, without larger purses I will be forced to acquiesce to the border state gambling interests and race and breed in their states. That is repugnant. Press for fairness and don't allow them to destroy our age old traditions. It is not the moral issue they are trying to hide behind. They are afraid to let the people decide. If approved, they would lose significant PAC funding for their own questionable uses. Disgusting.

Robert Grunnah

P.O. Box 802736
Dallas, Texas 75380



Thu 1/28/2016 3:18 PM

Tracy Sheffield
Historic Racing

To info

To Whom It May Concern,

Historic racing should be available at all Class One tracks in Texas. This will keep Texas racing on the same footing as racing in the surrounding states and keep Texas gambling dollars at home in Texas.

As a horseman, I want to keep my horses at home in Texas. Keeping racing viable will make that happen. Add my voice to those who support historic racing.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sheffield

Delete

Respond

Quick Steps

Flag

Move

Tags

Flag

Editing

Zoom



Mon 1/11/2016 8:04 AM

terry wootan
Historic racing

To info

Please don't back down on this issue!! I go about 20 mares a year in OKLA because of the breeders money and value of the OKLA bred. I live in Llano Tx and would love to move my horse home. I also own part of 2 stallions. Louisiana senator stands in OKLA. Teller cartel stands in New Mexico

Thanks Terry Wootan

Sent from my iPhone



Thu 1/7/2016 5:25 PM

Kim Kubinski
Historic Racing

To info

Bing Maps

I Kim Craddock Thomas from Weatherford, TX, am against the repeal of historical racing removal in Texas. I would like to see the historical racing left in place for Texas!

Kim Craddock Thomas
1333 Farmer Rd.
Weatherford, TX

Delete

Respond

Quick



Thu 1/7/2016 9:56 PM

Rob Francis

Historical

To info

Action Items

Gentlemen,

Please save Horse Racing in Texas with Historical Racing.

You can be heroes by helping Texas horsemen.

Thank you,

Robert C. Francis

214-520-0222

Delete

Respond

Quick Steps

Move

Policy - Unrecd

Tags

Up

Editing

Zoom

History



Thu 1/7/2016 4:49 PM

Bethany Fulton

Historical machines

To info

Bing Maps

I would like to voice my view to you about repealing the historical machines. I do not want to see the repeal.

My family is invested in the greyhound business and having these machines could help our great state to become a leader in the industry where now we are dying

Bethany Fulton

Franklin, TX

Sent from my iPhone

Delete

All

Respond

Quick Steps

Move

Policy - Unrecd

Tags

Up

Editing

Zoom



Thu 1/28/2016 6:38 AM

Carrol Key

Historical Races

To info

This is to request that you allow the Texas Courts to decide if the TRC exceeded its authority when they approved wagering on Historical Racing and take big money out of State interest out of this. Texas jobs and investments are at stake here.

Respectfully,
Edwin Carrol Key

Sent from my iPad



Mon 2/1/2016 6:51 AM

J Phillip Gossage

Historical Racing



To info

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

I am a farmer/rancher in west Texas who is also involved with horses of racing breeds. This is the third time I have written to support Texas horse racing and to support the men and women who are directly and indirectly involved in horse racing.

Purses at Texas race tracks are not on a par with purses at racetracks in the surrounding states. Purses in Texas have declined in 12 of the last 14 years and are down 63.8%. My hopes rose when the Texas Racing Commission approved historical racing two years ago. However, some in Austin believe the Commission exceeded its authority to approve historical racing.

I ask the Commission to not repeal its ruling on historical racing. I support the idea of letting the courts decide.

Thank you for your time, sincerely,

J. Phillip Gossage

Cisco



Wed 1/27/2016 1:05 PM

Lisa Lewis

Texas Historical Racing Terminals



To info

MR. TROUT -

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I OPPOSE THE REPEAL OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL RACING TERMINALS AND REQUEST THAT THE CURRENT RULES BE KEPT IN PLACE!!!!!!

PLEASE GET A CLUE!!!!!!!!!! FOR ONCE!!!!

[Lisa](#)



Mon 1/11/2016 12:37 PM

Kelsi

Saving Texas Horse Racing

To info

To whom it may Concern

I'm a Jockey named Kelsi Kelso Purcell

"I oppose the repeal of the historical racing terminals and request the current rules be kept in place."

Thank you

Sincerely Kelsi Purcell

Sent from my iPhone



Wed 1/27/2016 3:12 PM

Marcy Huntsinger

Support Horse Racing in Texas

To info

My husband's family Stanton Stables of Lorena, Texas breed, raise, sell and race Thoroughbreds.

I am Marcy Huntsinger, and I am in favor of historical race machines at existing tracks. I am not a gambler myself but do understand that racing is a very old sport and has always been financed from the betting handle. We in Texas are no longer on an equal playing field with our surrounding states who have other gambling sources to help their purse account. There are people leaving our state due to this.

Please continue to support HRT's and Texas Racing. Your dedication to Texas Racing is appreciated!

From: Tim Lehmborg

Date: January 27, 2016 at 10:33:37 CST

To: "chuck.trout@txrc.texas.gov" <chuck.trout@txrc.texas.gov>

Subject: Support for pari-mutual racing in Texas

Mr. Trout,

I realize that the Texas Racing Commission is facing yet another funding deadline and that's a real shame. I would like to voice my support for horse racing in Texas, including historical racing; and express my displeasure with our State legislature for kowtowing to special interests and continuing to put you all in the bind that you're in.

As you know, the Gillespie County Fair & Festivals Association operates a Class 3 track here in Fredericksburg along The Race Barn, a simulcast horse and greyhound racing venue. The four weekends of live racing each year are of important economic benefit to the community and are part of our rich heritage. Statewide, the economic impact of horse racing is huge. Many of those jobs will be lost or permanently moved to other states if Texas doesn't get its act together.

Thank you,

Tim Lehmborg

Executive Director

Gillespie County Economic Development Commission

302 East Austin Street

Fredericksburg, TX 78624



Wed 1/27/2016 1:06 PM

Corliss Hazard
Stand your ground

To info

Dear IRC.

Your efforts to support the public opinion and needs of the horsemen are very valiant, and I hope it continues.

So many jobs, including mine, rest on the continuation and hopeful new health of the horse industry.

The situation with Gov Abbott is absolutely wrong- he is not supporting Texas but only supporting himself with backing of out of state interests. His flight to Cuba funded by his pals in Las Vegas was so transparent I can't believe that he is not being exposed by the media. His relationship with TexasOne, a quasi-governmental agency funded by "private donations", is certain to come under scrutiny by lawyers working for TTA and the horsemen. Abbott and so many others in the current Texas government including that silly classless woman Jane Nelson have their pockets lined by so many various out of state gambling interests, including of course the Houston resident who owns Lake Charles casino, there is no way Abbott and his cronies will stop their personal gains in lieu of caring for the Texas constituency. The icing on the cake is the Texas governor "appointments" of personal friends to head up agencies that will be able to slide unscrupulous deals through to simply stack up more funds in the bank account of the legislators. Abbott preaching his morality and anti gambling stance is nothing but a huge farce and coverup for his acceptance of millions in campaign donations from exactly the industry he professes to denounce.

I have always been a staunch republican, and I am extremely disappointed at the so called republican leadership in Texas. They are not republican, they are independently promoting their own pockets. If they really cared about Texans, they would educate themselves to the economic impact of the horse industry including the untapped potential of it for our state, they would care about the history and imagery of Texas and our cultural heritage and appeal for tourism, and they would listen to Texans about what they want- namely, the citizens want a public vote on the matter of gambling. This has not happened because our government in Texas has become so corrupt, they don't want gambling here because it does not personally benefit them. It is only the IRC that has any morals to support the citizens they represent.

We are counting on you, to do the right thing.

Kind regards,

Corliss



Thu 1/28/2016 12:58 PM

historical racing

To info

I am a Thoroughbred horse trainer in Texas. My husband and I own and operate a training facility in East Texas and have been successful here for more than 20 years. Over the years with the decline in our purses we have lost owners to other surrounding states and we have also stopped breeding and racing our own horses. We would like to see Texas become competitive with our neighboring states and would like to see Texas racing regain a top position in the country. We have fine horsemen here and could produce top horses if the purses improve and people come back to Texas to race. If not, we like many others will go out of business. Please see that we stay in business and stay in Texas. Sincerely, Ellen Williams

--
Ellen Williams



Wed 1/27/2016 6:07 PM

Ken Murphy
Historical Racing

To info

As a horse owner and racing enthusiast, it is imperative that the State of Texas approve and institute Historical Racing for Texas tracks. Texas is surrounded by states that are utilizing state-border locations to establish gambling operations or casinos which are surviving on dollars gambled by Texans. Does it make any sense to force the money to leave the State of Texas and go into the coffers of your surrounding states? It is my belief and position that Texas was created as a "horse state" and will always be one. Horses are integral in the history of our state, as is gambling. It would appear that the only benefits of not having Historical Racing at Texas tracks is that it takes the "filthy money" that Texans spend gambling to the neighboring states out of our state coffers and closes horse racing in Texas.

Maybe that's what our State Representatives want. Otherwise, it really makes no sense.

Ken Murphy
Ken Murphy Thoroughbreds



Thu 1/7/2016 6:09 PM

Historical racing

To info

I started racing in Texas in 2006. I enjoyed racing there but could not continue because of the difficulty of earning a living because of the small purses. Historical racing is the only prospect of Texas racing being competitive with the surrounding states. I am presently in Maryland and would return to Texas in a heartbeat if historical racing is allowed at the tracks which will help boost the purses. Please do not repeal the rules and give Texas racing a fighting chance. Regards Andrew Ali Sent from AOL Mobile Mail



Wed 1/13/2016 8:18 AM

Katherine Erickson

Vote to Save Many Texas Jobs

To info

[Bing Maps](#)

[+ Get more](#)

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

I am a Republican who is opposed to the repeal of the Historical Racing rules. I am making a formal request that the rules be kept in place. I believe this will increase the viability of Texas horse racing tracks and bring money to our state. Please let me know if there is more I can do to keep these rules in place. I do not see a problem with historical racing machines.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. I am proud that you have repeatedly stood up to bullying by state leaders on behalf of powerful gambling interests. I write to ask you to, once again, vote against repealing the rules regulating historical racing.

Despite the fact that no terminals have been approved or could possibly be installed before the next legislative session, the very existence of the rules will allow us our day in court and (more importantly) hope for the future.

At stake are tens of thousands of jobs and the entire Texas Horse industry. Enough of you have stood strong for our industry to get us here and we ask that you continue to show this strength in the face of threats of de-funding the agency.

Rest assured, it will be well known that responsibility for the loss of jobs and closing of family farms around Texas (should these threats be realized) will rest squarely at the feet of those who have sought to subvert the constitutional process to realize their political goals.

Thanks again for doing the right thing, please vote one more time to defend the rules we worked for so long to get right.

Sincerely,

Katherine Erickson
3304 Saint James Ct
Tyler, TX 75701



Mon 2/1/2016 11:11 AM

Denis Blake

Why the Horse Racing Industry Matters to Texas

To info

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

Chances are anyone reading this doesn't care very much about the horse racing and breeding industry in the state of Texas. I can certainly understand why most people without any direct involvement in the horse industry don't really care. Truth is, I care much more about it than most because I am involved in it, and don't care nearly as much about industries that I know nothing about or have no direct involvement in. And I realize there are other industries that are struggling for various reasons. But the horse racing and breeding industry touches more segments of the Texas economy than most, especially the agricultural sector. From the time a racehorse is born, it will be at least two years before he can race, and sometimes more. That's a lot of hay, feed, veterinary care, horse shoes, tack, equipment and more.

Why should you care? The struggles of the Texas racing industry also affect others, even those who really have nothing to do with the industry. This past weekend, Sam Houston Race Park ran several major stakes races with horses coming from all over the country to compete. The owners, trainers, grooms and jockeys for those horses stayed in local hotels, ate at local restaurants, rented cars, bought gas and more in the Houston area. The same thing happens throughout the year at the tracks in Dallas and San Antonio.

Then consider this...I am the publisher of American Racehorse magazine, which was launched after The Texas Thoroughbred magazine went out of business because of the decline in Texas racing and corresponding decline in advertisers. That magazine used to be printed in Austin by a printing company that employed Texans. It used to be mailed from an Austin post office that employed Texans. It had a full time designer, assistant editor and ad rep, all Texans. Now, American Racehorse magazine, which is still based in Texas, is printed and mailed in another state, because the majority of our subscribers are no longer in Texas so we need to mail it from a more central location. We have no full-time employees in Texas. While the loss of those jobs and income to other Texas businesses might seem small, it certainly is not small when it is multiplied thousands of times over. The horse industry is not asking for a handout from the state government; they are simply asking for the opportunity to compete with surrounding states, some of which offer Historical Racing Machines as another form of pari-mutuel wagering, which is legal in Texas. If the Texas horse racing and breeding industry disappears, it will affect much more than just horsemen and horsewomen. Just something to think about.

Denis Blake,
1341 Meadowlark Drive
Round Rock, Texas 78664
512-695-4541

Sincerely,

Denis Blake



Sandy Allen <

Historical Racing

To info

Dear Mr. Trout,

I wish to respectfully register my opposition to the repeal of historical racing terminals in Texas. If horsetracks are to survive in the state, historical racing terminals are a necessity in order to staunch the flow of horses to nearby states which enjoy gambling machines and offer larger purses. If I were a purist, I would prefer there were no gaming machines and the track was devoted entirely to the sport of horse racing. But I'm a realist and know that if we don't have a level playing field with our neighboring states we will eventually lose our tracks altogether. The legislators owe it to their constituents.

Sent from my iPad



Wed 1/27/2016 5:33 PM

Jennifer

We want historical racing

To info

Action Items

+ Get more

I guess I will start this letter off by saying thank you for your time.

All the horsemen want is time, your time. To actually here the Texas people. It is time to make it an equal playing field here.

This matter could be resolved by a vote before the public. Not a hidden vote, a clear cut vote listed on a ballot...Why not let Texans decide what we want? Why not let Texans spend money here? The list can go on and on...

I would like to know how much do other states pay to keep racing shut in here. As I am composing this letter a Delta Downs commercial is playing on the T.V. so I guess I just answered that question...

I have an extremely hard decision to make in a few months. First of all horse breeding season starts February. Do I stay here and have proud Texas Accredited horses or do I ship them to Louisiana or Oklahoma? Second, with that if I do ship, would it be cheaper if I relocate to that state?

Please keep in mind if I, we the Texas horse people do have to relocate, you will not get tax money from us.

I am extremely disappointed in the legislature who is holding our money hostage.

I guess from the letter you can see I'm for historical racing, and I appreciate the TXRC for standing ground.

thank you,

Jennifer Wourms (a future trainer with a possible no future here)

MESSAGE

RESPONSE

SEARCH RESULTS

FAV

PROFILE

LOGS

FAV

CONTACT

ADDRESS



Tue 1/26/2016 8:19 PM

Joleen Hales

texas racing repeal

To info

I am writing to you as a former Texan who wishes to return to the state. I relocated to Oklahoma because of their racing programs and \$\$-racing purses which greatly allowed me to stay in a business that has been a passion since childhood. I WOULD LOVE TO MOVE BACK.

I am begging you to oppose the repeal of historical racing terminals, and help Texans regain the major industry that they have lost to other surrounding states.

If you cannot agree, at least propose some kind of legislation of some kind to return texas racing to what it once was, and figure out a way to continue to improve it in the future. Please don't allow it to die. Do something, do anything!!! It is not too late to save it from the end its facing.

I cannot believe that Texas Government really wants to allow the loss of so many jobs that are attached and related to his one huge industry. Texas has always been a place that was poised to be the diamond of horse racing in the U.S. Government and greed from opposing states paying off politicians have left it slip and face extinction. We already have gambling with the lottery, so what is this really all about.

Please help to save Texas Racing & make it great again.

Sincerely,

Joleen Hales



Thu 1/28/2016 1:19 PM

Janice Grelle

Saving Texas Racing

To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more app

As Texas Thoroughbred owners and ranchers supplying commodities to the Texas horse racing industry, Donald and Janice Grelle herewith confirm their support for Texas Thoroughbred racing and the decision to install and operate the Historical racing machines at Texas racetracks in order to keep Texas thoroughbred racing viable. If the Texas Thoroughbred industry fails, we will be one of the operations that will fail with it. We are voters and our future votes will reflect the way that we are treated with regard to this matter.

Donald and Janice Grelle
Mart TX 76664



Linda Pounds

Save Texas horses

To info

As a Texan and fan of Texas horse racing I ask you to vote against the repeal of the existing rules regulating historical racing in Texas. One need only look at a map to realize where the pressure to repeal is coming from. Casinos along our northern and eastern borders as well as the one in South Texas and the bingo parlors around our state enjoy a monopoly on Texan gaming dollars. Added to this, online Daily Fantasy Betting and two new casinos on Texas tribal lands all mean that Texans are already gambling to the tune of BILLIONS. Unfortunately, these interests spend quite a bit of money keeping the landscape devoid of competition.

But, don't worry! Historical racing machines aren't slot machines and can't compete with them. What they will do is bolster purses enough to keep our horse and racing industries alive for the foreseeable future. They may even help to bring some of the big races back to Texas.

Tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic impact are reliant on you standing firm and not caving to outside political pressure. I ask that you do what is right for the industry and Texas.

Please vote against repeal of the historical racing rules so that the court case may proceed and we can get some finality to this issue.

Sent from my iPhone



Thu 1/28/2016 9:45 PM

Vikki McLean Robbins
Save Texas Horse Racing



To info

Bing Maps Action Items

+ Get more app

11163 Osborn Rd
Pilot Point, TX 76358



January 28, 2016

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter asking for your support of Texas Racing. The L.L.B, Senator Jane Nelson and Lt Gov. Dan Patrick in particular, are threatening to withhold funds racetracks must have to continue operations. These are not monies from the state, but funds that are generated by the racing industry itself! Basically the TRC is asking for its own money.

I'm asking you to take a moment and reflect on the economic impact of a healthy, vibrant equine industry. Amazingly enough, economic studies have shown that only a small percentage of money generated by racing actually goes to the track! Please follow as I provide just a few examples.

Horses require land- that means realtors and the whole support complex of the real estate business, including banks, title companies, surveyor etc. Once you purchase the land you begin to build your operation: architects, builders, building supply companies, fencing materials & builders and utilities are required. Horses require feed involving the farming industry. Equipment such as trucks, trailers, tractors and the care & maintenance required to keep this machinery running are all businesses that benefit from Texas racing. Most, if not all, of the businesses just listed do not require any knowledge of, or actual experience with a horse.

Next I'd like you to consider the number of people that are employed in conjunction with the equine industry. Beginning with the businesses in the previous paragraph and moving to jobs that actually come into contact with horses. The breeding farms, sales, veterinarians, tracks and the people employed at the track. I hope you are beginning to see the wide range of businesses and people who are dependent upon the equine industry. Trust me, I can go on and on.

Lastly I want to appeal to your Texas pride. Are you aware that Texas is the birthplace of the American Quarter Horse and quarter horse racing? I think its a pity that the state that gave us this great breed of horse and exciting sport is fighting for its existence.



Sun 1/31/2016 2:01 PM

John Crisp, Sr.
We DESPERATELY need Historical Racing



To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more app

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

My farm needs historical racing. I am in NE Texas and can't even keep my mares and horses on my own farm anymore. Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma all support their horses and now I must support their programs and run and breed my horses in those states because Texas has buried its head at the wishes of Louisiana and tribal casinos. Is this fair that I have had to lay off my farm employees for some sort of misguided political statement. Ask those who have already lost their jobs on our farm. I am happy to testify if you really care to hear the plight of Texas horse farms.

But, don't worry! Historical racing machines aren't slot machines and can't compete with them. What they will do is bolster purses enough to keep our horse and racing industries alive for the foreseeable future. They may even help to bring some of the big races back to Texas.

Tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic impact are reliant on you standing firm and not caving to outside political pressure. I ask that you do what is right for the industry and Texas.

Please vote against repeal of the historical racing rules so that the court case may proceed and we can get some finality to this issue.

Sincerely,

J. David Crisp--Southern Legacy Farm
1825 Moores Ln
Texarkana, TX 75508



Thu 1/28/2016 9:35 AM

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Casner
Save our Industry and Texas Jobs. Please Vote against Repealing Rules Regulating Historical Racing.



To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more app

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

Vote to save a huge agri-economic engine that provides Tens of Thousand of Jobs by voting against the repeal of the existing rules regulating historical racing in Texas. Texas Racing Industry has a deep history in Texas. The horse Assault bred by the King Ranch in Texas won the Triple Crown in 1947. Horse Racing provides millions of dollars of economic impact and it is having to compete on an un-level playing field against neighboring states. Look at a map and it is obvious where the pressure to repeal is coming from. Casinos along our northern and eastern borders as well as the one in South Texas and the bingo parlors around our state enjoy a monopoly on Texan gaming dollars. Added to this, online Daily Fantasy Betting and two new casinos on Texas tribal lands all mean that Texans are already gambling to the tune of BILLIONS. Unfortunately, these interests spend quite a bit of money keeping the landscape devoid of competition.

Ky. has allowed wagering on Historical Horse Racing as a means to keep Ky. tax dollars in the state rather than benefitting neighboring states. It has insured the future of the Ky. breeding and racing industry. HHR adheres to Ky. law and the courts in Texas should be allowed to make the determination of legality. HHR is only another product that would allow Texas to compete on a level playing field with LA., Okla. and N.M.

Tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic impact are reliant on you standing firm and not caving to outside political pressure. I ask that you do what is right for the industry and Texas.

Please vote against repeal of the historical racing rules so that the court case may proceed and we can get some finality to this issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Casner
7141 Cross Timbers Rd
Flower Mound, TX 75022



Wed 1/27/2016 12:43 PM

Asil Arabians [redacted] >

Rules extension for Historical Racing

To info

[Bing Maps](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am not a gambler, but I do hope to race my horses some day, and I want to expand the Arabian Racing, I would like to see it in all the states, and you can lead the way! You can preserve the ground breaking initiative and keep Arabian Racing alive and flourishing! Please do not repeal the rule.

Thank you

ASIL ARABIANS : STRAIGHT EGYPTIANS & ARALOOSAS
(Horses of distinction!)

Lisa Layton

2013 Cnty Hwy 10

Laurens, NY 13796

YOU TUBE : asilarabians

Delete | Respond | Quick Steps | Move | Tags | Editing | Zoom



Mon 1/28/2016 12:44 PM

Racing in TEXAS!

To info

I am appalled that our State Senators have a problem with live racing and/or historical racing. The impact on the people involved in the industry would suffer a huge traumatic financial loss. Mutual tellers, feed stores, groomers, hot walkers, exerciser rides, gate keepers, out riders, pony horses, and so many others including trainers, owners and jockeys would cause so much devastation. I do NOT understand how in good conscientious TEXAS REPRESENTATIVES could just do anyway with a whole industry. While jockeys, owners and trainers may relocate to neighboring states, that does not help all the others affected. I would like to nominate anyone who does not support, to give their paychecks to all the people who cannot relocate and who will be unemployed. This is beyond STUPID! Senator Nelson and several others need a reality check, no donations from casinos and special interest that prevent our state from being great.
Patron,
Sheila Goss
Hockley, TX

Please support historical racing rules

To info

We removed extra line breaks from this message.

Dear Mr. Trout and Texas Racing Commissioners, I just wanted to write a short note asking that you continue to support historical racing rules in Texas. I am the editor and publisher of American Racehorse magazine, which covers racing in Texas and around the region. I have seen first hand how Texas has fallen behind other states in recent years. I have seen a steady drop in advertising and interest from people in Texas, and every year for our Stallion Register issue I have new stallions coming into neighboring states (or former Texas stallions moving to those states) but very few new ones in Texas. I cannot speak for the horsemen, but I certainly agree with their view that the only chance for Texas racing and breeding to prosper is to eventually get historical racing in place at the tracks and that the risk of losing the legal or legislative fight on that front is worth the possible reward down the road. Thank you again for supporting historical racing.

Denis Blake

--

Denis Blake

Editor/Publisher

American Racehorse magazine (formerly Southern Racehorse) [redacted]



Wed 1/27/2016 12:41 PM

Sandy Gulledge

Please Keep HRT Rules in Place

To info

We removed extra line breaks from this message.

Gentlemen:

We can only wonder what is going on with the ongoing yo-yo actions relating to horse racing in Texas.

As a breeder and horse owner, actively involved in this type of agricultural pursuit, I am keenly interested in letting Commissioners know that we are OPPOSED to the REPEAL of Historical Racing rules.

In fact, we need to keep historical racing rules IN PLACE while my interest group, the Texas Thoroughbred Association, pursues the matter in court.

Last December, the Texas Racing Commission (TRC) voted to post the repeal of rules governing par-mutuel wagering on historical races in the Texas Register for public comment.

Here's my comment:

Horse racing needs all the support it can get from the Texas Racing Commission and the legislature. We do appreciate what you have done for us so far. But we can't let casino interests rule -- casino gambling is NOT an agricultural activity. And there IS a BIG difference!!!!

SUPPORT TEXAS AGRICULTURE!

Sincerely,

Sandy Gulledge
Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas



Fri 1/29/2016 6:18 AM

thomas aparicio

My dream

To info

Action Items

My name is Thomas Aparicio. I am 80 years old and lived in Texas my entire life. I have been working for 30 years in oil field service industry. My family has been horse racing in Texas since I was 6 years old. My dream was when I retire is to train and run my own horses fulltime in Texas ,but looks like that will not happen if this is not resolved. Please try to get this thing fixed.

Thanks Thomas Aparicio

info

From: Joey Harwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 3:45 PM
To: info
Subject: Letter to Save Texas Racing

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

info@txrc.texas.gov

To Whom It May Concern;

In the year of 1929 a horse race track in Texas was established. As resources I have read stated, Arlington Downs was a very successful track in the United States for a few years in the 1930's. In fact, it was one of the top race tracks in North America for a few years.

Unfortunately, the Texas legislature voted to repeal the pari-mutuel laws at the end of the regular session in 1937. It was a setback that the Texas racing industry would have to endure for 50 years.

Loyal Texas horsemen did their best to keep the Texas racing and horse breeding industry alive and strong while continually fighting to return pari-mutuel racing to Texas. It was a long, hard struggle, and finally, in 1987, the Texas legislature voted to legalize pari-mutuel wagering in Texas.

As a friend of many horsemen as well as being literally raised as a child at the tracks around North Texas, I hope that the leadership of Texas would come together and realize what an impact it will be on the state if they let horse racing diminish in Texas. So many families of young kids would be greatly affected by closing down race tracks. So many people would be out of jobs. The state would lose money by horsemen moving their horses out of state.

Texas leadership needs to answer the horsemen that deserve more respect than they are getting at the moment. We need the leadership of Texas to come together and #SaveTexasRacing, not just for the next 6 months, or 6 years... we want Texas Horse Racing

1



Wed 1/27/2016 2:14 PM

Stan Huntsinger [REDACTED]

Horse racing for Texas

To: info

I am Larry Huntsinger Waco, Texas a small rancher/breeder and I am in favor of historical race machines at existing tracks. I am not a gambler myself but do understand that racing is a very old sport and has always been financed from the betting handle. We in Texas are no longer on an equal playing field with our surrounding states who have other gambling sources to help their purse account. There are people leaving our state due to this. Please continue to support HRT's and Texas racing.



Mon 1/25/2016 6:37 PM

ellis grimes [REDACTED]

Historical Racing

To: info

Hi Chuck Trout,

Just a note to add my voice to the comments. I oppose the repeal of the Historical racing Terminals and program. Please vote to keep the rules as written. We must all do what we can to strengthen our Texas horse racing industry and let our voices be heard. I am really upset with some of our elected officials narrow view of pari-mutuel racing and have no concern that this program was approved by Texas voters many years ago after an even longer period trying to get wagering approved in Texas. It is highly disgraceful for our elected officials accepting money from Lobbyists from the surrounding states with full blown casino gambling that realize the amount of revenue they stand to lose if gambling were to be approved by Texas. We must fight on both fronts and I for one would be happy to lead such an effort.

Thank You

Ellis Grimes



Mon 1/25/2016 6:37 PM

ellis grimes
Historical Racing

To: info

Hi Chuck Trout,

Just a note to add my voice to the comments. I oppose the repeal of the Historical racing Terminals and program. Please vote to keep the rules as written. We must all do what we can to strengthen our Texas horse racing industry and let our voices be heard. I am really upset with some of our elected officials narrow view of pari-mutuel racing and have no concern that this program was approved by Texas voters many years ago after an even longer period trying to get wagering approved in Texas. It is highly disgraceful for our elected officials accepting money from Lobbyists from the surrounding states with full blown casino gambling that realize the amount of revenue they stand to lose if gambling were to be approved by Texas. We must fight on both fronts and I for one would be happy to lead such an effort.
Thank You

Ellis Grimes

From: Rebecca Harding
Date: January 26, 2016 at 3:15:08 PM CST
To: info@trc.tx.gov
Subject: Historical Racing

Governor Patrick,

My name is Rebecca Harding and I'm a licensed thoroughbred owner in the state of Texas. I've been racing horses for 12 years and have enjoyed horse racing for 40 plus years.

Texas horse racing is not what it once was in this state. Owners, breeders, trainers and all of the folks behind the scenes are suffering because we can't compete w neighboring states that support their own horse industry. Consequently, the Texas industry has slowly been migrating to states where governments support this long standing business.

I find it appalling that our Texas government wishes to put thousands of people out of work and deny the citizens of our state the privilege of enjoying a sport that is deeply embedded in the American culture! Why, I ask my self! Why would the Texas government want all of the revenue and tax dollars spent on this sport to land in the pockets of our neighboring states let alone render thousands of people cut of jobs. Questions that no one cares to answer! Is there some hidden agenda here?

I ask you to allow the Texas Thoroughbred Commission the right to have historical racing which is technically legal in the scope of their authority. Please stop the parties who are illegally trying to block the TTA agenda and please don't let these individuals selfishly ruin our beloved industry.

Rebecca Harding



Tue 1/26/2016 7:03 AM

Joan Franklin
Historical racing terminals

To: info

Mr. Trout,

I am a small Texas breeder and owner of Thoroughbred racing horses. I can't afford to move or race my horses to another state. Please stand up for Texas horsemen and women and keep historical racing terminals in the rules and give us a chance.

Thank you,
Joan M. Franklin



Tue 1/26/2016 7:41 AM

Melanie Gilbert

I Vote to Save Tens of Thousands of Jobs and so should you!

To: info

[Bing Maps](#)

+ Get more apps

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

Horse enterprises have deep roots in the State of Texas, why throw all that away?

As a Texas Horseman's relative, I am proud that you have repeatedly stood up to bullying by state leaders on behalf of powerful gambling interests. I write to ask you to, once again, vote against repealing the rules regulating historical racing.

Despite the fact that no terminals have been approved or could possibly be installed before the next legislative session, the very existence of the rules will allow us our day in court and (more importantly) hope for the future.

At stake are tens of thousands of jobs and the entire Texas Horse industry. Enough of you have stood strong for our industry to get us here and we ask that you continue to show this strength in the face of threats of de-funding the agency.

Rest assured, it will be well known that responsibility for the loss of jobs and closing of family farms around Texas (should these threats be realized) will rest squarely at the feet of those who have sought to subvert the constitutional process to realize their political goals.

Thanks again for doing the right thing, please vote one more time to defend the rules we worked for so long to get right.

Sincerely,

Melanie Gilbert
9497 Stringtown Rd
Temple, TX 76501



Tue 1/26/2016 11:23 AM

Woods, Dan <[REDACTED]>

Historical Racing wording

To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more apps

I am a racehorse owner and Breeder. I live in Burnet County with my 52 horses. I employ two full time workers. We spend about \$2,000 per month on hay, \$600 per month of hoof care, \$1,000 per month on vet care, and \$1600 per month on feed. That represents income to the small businesses that provide those services.

I urge the Texas Racing Commission to leave all references to historical racing as they are now and allow the horsemen like myself the opportunity to find a resolution to this conflict in the court system.

Dan Woods
Wild Oats Ranch
Bertram Texas



Wed 1/27/2016 1:58 PM

Jennifer Gibbs <[REDACTED]>

Historical Racing

To info

Bing Maps

Action Items

+ Get more apps

I have been employed by the Texas Thoroughbred Association since February of 1999. At that time purses were good, there was year round racing at class 1 tracks and Texas ranked fourth in the nation in foals born and mares bred. This is a great industry and I hope to finish out my working career with TTA. I'm concerned that a repeal of the rule allowing Historical Racing as another form of pari-mutuel wagering will cause the industry to go into a slow slide toward extinction. People who can't afford the expense of breeding and racing here have been staying anyway because of the possibility of a purse supplement in the future. (Everyone would really rather race in Texas, all things being equal.) With that hope removed, more people will move or go out of business, races will be even more difficult to fill and fields will be even shorter. This will cause simulcast dollars to decline shrinking purses and race dates and feeding that downward spiral. State bred incentive programs have become a huge part of thoroughbred breeding and since our Accredited Texas-Bred program is sourced from simulcast money, that too is shrinking and, frankly, not much of an incentive to breed here. The Commission has already decided that it is legal for it to authorize and regulate the type of Historical Racing machines described in the rule. One lower court disagreed. Please leave the rule in place and let the appeal go through.

Jennifer C. Gibbs
Racing/Accreditation Manager
Texas Thoroughbred Association



Wed 1/27/2016 2:03 PM

Historical Racing

To info

We removed extra line breaks from this message.

I completely back Historical Racing and its time horseman have there day in court. Politicians that are influenced by out of and in State casino money should be held accountable for there actions against it. The horseman, feed dealers, and other associated businesses should not lose there lively hoods generated by HORSE RACING.

Sincerely;
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Perkins



Wed 1/27/2016 2:13 PM

Tony DeLeon <[REDACTED]>

HRT

To info

Please keep the HRT Rules in place in order to continue horse racing in Texas. Without HRT, it will be difficult to continue a competitive horse racing industry in Texas.

TBA Member: P. A. DeLeon



Wed 1/27/2016 5:13 PM

will woods <[REDACTED]>

Historical Racing

To info

Do not repeal Historical Racing it is the only way the Texas racing will survive and keeps people working in all areas of this industry. If the racing commission lets it die there goes the racing in our state.
Will Woods Weatherford Tx.



Wed 1/27/2016 2:32 PM

James Odom

Historical Racing

To info

Please keep the HRT in effect until the appeal is ruled upon by the court. Thank you

I am,

Col. James D. Odom U.S. Army (ret)
(and thoroughbred owner)
ST. Hedwig, Texas



Wed 1/27/2016 3:25 PM

jo reser

Keep the HRT rules in place while this matter is decided in the Courts.

To info

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

The Texas Horse Racing Industry needs for the HRT rules in place while this matter is pursued in court. The investment of thousands of people into this industry will never recover if these rules are repealed. Irreparable damage will be done that can not be reversed. Texas should be proud of its beautiful racetracks and horses. Please let this important industry have a chance to thrive. Thousands of jobs could be lost if this repeal vote is allowed. There is no reason to repeal this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Jo Reser



Wed 1/27/2016 3:52 PM

Roger Williams

Historical Racing Terminals

To info

Please keep the rules in place. I'm a retired school teacher and I bought my first horse in 1977 and I named her Futura Fina. With your help Texas will have a Futura Fina. We may have a few bumps but as an industry, but we are prepared for those bumps. Thank You!

direct

response

quick steps

more

tags

calendar

zoom



Wed 1/27/2016 4:22 PM

HRT

To info

[Bing Maps](#)

I oppose the repeal of the Historical Racing Wagering in Texas. The TRC has been set on eliminating any program that will assist horse racing in Texas, it's about time that changed.

George Pawley

PO Box 1026

Hilltop Lakes TX 77871



Wed 1/27/2016 4:23 PM

Margo Narro

Horse Racing in Texas

To info

To whom it may concern

I am a widow, horse owner, and breeder of race horses.

If you fall for this scam by other states that are growing fat and happy on our Texas horses and the monies we have spent on this industry then shame on you.

Taking an industry away for the gain of other states. Mr. Abbot I voted for you thinking you would work for me. Well not so.

Not only are you taking away a family way of life for me but for many others that depend on me and my business.

I think you are not here for the people but the business of putting small people out of business.

I'm not sure what special interest group you are for, but the next voting cycle I'll not be voting for you and your band of merry men.

Very disgruntled breeder of fine horses.

You have the ability to stop this here and now, let's see if you have a pair. Vote fire the horse industry.

Margo Narro



Fri 1/29/2016 2:25 PM

Richard Weilburg

HRM decision



To info

Cc Mary Ruyle; Jan Haynes

Dear Commissioners:

We entreat you to stay the course and not change your ruling on HRM's. It's too late for us, as our horseracing business has already failed due to the hostility of the Legislature toward our industry. Our ex-employee is now on State assistance to house his family. But there are still thousands of Texas horsemen that deserve for you to do the right thing and give them their day in court in order to continue doing business and employing people in this great state.

Respectfully submitted;

Richard D. Weilburg M.D.

Gretchen Weilburg



Fri 1/29/2016 10:43 AM

Diana <

Historical Racing



To info

[Bing Maps](#)

[+ Get more app](#)

Dear Mr Trout:

I oppose the repeal of the historical racing terminals. The HRT will help our struggling Texas tracks offer bigger purses to compete with neighboring states and save thousands of jobs in Texas and bring back jobs and horses from other states with more lucrative purses due to their casino funding.

Please keep the fight going to do what is right for our Texas race industry!

Sincerely,

Diana Fratessa



Fri 1/29/2016 8:19 AM

Lisa Kuhlmann

Historical Racing



To info

To Whom It May Concern:

As a horse owner and breeder in the state of Texas, I oppose the repeal of historical racing terminals.

Thank you,
Lisa Kuhlmann



gina.scheer

TTA: Letter of Opposition



To info

Dear TTA,

I approve of your service to the Texas Horse Industry and applaud your stance on standing up to crooked judgement. The rules regarding historical racing are absolutely in your jurisdiction. I urge you not to repeal the rules and allow the legal process to play out in court.

Thanks,

Gina

Governor Patrick,

My partner is a licensed thoroughbred owner in the state of Texas. She has been racing horses for 12 years and has enjoyed horse racing for 40 plus years.

Texas horse racing is not what it once was in this state. Owners, breeders, trainers and all of the folks behind the scenes are suffering because we can't compete w neighboring states that support their own horse industry. Consequently, the Texas industry has slowly been migrating to states where governments support this long standing business.

I find it appalling that our Texas government wishes to put thousands of people out of work and deny the citizens of our state the privilege of enjoying a sport that is deeply embedded in the American culture! Why, I ask my self! Why would the Texas government want all of the revenue and tax dollars spent on this sport to land in the pockets of our neighboring states let alone render thousands of people out of jobs. Questions that no one cares to answer! Is there some hidden agenda here?

I ask you to allow the Texas Thoroughbred Commission the right to have historical racing which is technically legal in the scope of their authority. Please stop the parties who are illegally trying to block the TTA agenda and please don't let these individuals selfishly ruin the beloved industry.



Thu 1/28/2016 6:18 AM

Tommy Bullard

Historical Racing Machines

To: info

Everyone in Texas that owns, partipatas, reaps rewards for sale and upkeep of horse farms, ranches, trainers, owners, jockeys, grooms, support staff sale of trucks, trailers, feed, fuel, fertilizer, equipment, fences, hired help, insurance, taxes, etc, need your help in not caving in to any legislators or anyone trying to stop Texas racing. Hold your ground on historical racing machines. We need them. Tommy Bullard, (farm owner, trainer, veterinarian).

From: [REDACTED]
To: info@txrc.texas.gov
Cc:
Subject: HRTs
Date: Thu, 21 Jan 2016 06:51:40 -0800

Please hold strong and refuse to repeal the rules. I'm a small time breeder owner trainer and I believe that we can win this thing in court. We need you to stand strong. Mr. Pablo's your responsibility is not to the agency, but to the industry that you regulate. A few senators are fighting to keep us from our day in court, please don't let them do that.

May God bless you in a special way today.



Thu 1/24/2016 6:16 PM

Betty Knox

Historical Racing

To: info

Dear Mr. Chairman: My name is Betty Knox and I am a retired school administrator and a partner in Southwestern Racing, LLC, a Texas Corporation. The partnership was formed in 2006 and has bred, raised and raced thoroughbreds since it's inception. The current climate regarding the "standoff" between the Texas Racing Commission (TRC), the Legislative Budget Board chairwoman and the Lt. Governor is vexing to say the least. The consequences of shutting down the TRC and the fall out from the shut down are unimaginable. Everyone associated with the racing industry will be hurt in the cruelest way, but especially those at the lower tier. Loss of employment by those who may be considered unskilled will suffer the worst because they don't have knowledge of how to navigate any social services that may be available to them to help them find employment. Those who do, however, will from lines at the unemployment offices the likes of which have not been seen.

The most disturbing facet of the standoff is the unethical acceptance (by the LBB chairwoman and the Lt. Governor) of political contributions from out of state Casino owners who do not want horse racing in Texas to remain viable. Where I come from this is called a CONFLICT OF INTEREST. Nelson and Patrick, and other, are not the goody, goody representatives they strive to portray. They are two-faced to put it politely. Patrick says he wants to come up with a viable solution to the problem presented by shutting down the TRC, but he won't even meet with officials of the state organization, the Texas Thoroughbred Association.

All this to say, please vote to fully fund the Texas Racing Commission for the next two years. Let the Courts decide if the TRC has the authority to approve the addition of Historical Racing Machines at Texas race tracks, and not politicians who are unethical and two-faced.

Thank you for your time. I welcome any thoughts you may be willing to share with me regarding your position on this matter.

Betty Knox



Thu 1/14/2016 12:24 PM
Mike Grossman
HRT

To info

Mr Trout,

Thanks to you and the entire Commission for holding firm on the HRT rules. If these rules are not allowed to stand court resolution will be rendered moot. I believe the Commission has the authority to pass these rules which are so essential to the viability of our industry.

My breeding business has suffered an 80% decline in bookings this year. The uncertainty has people sitting on the sidelines. We will not survive in Texas without a positive resolution in favor of HRT's.

Thank you,

Mike Grossman
Eureka Thoroughbred Farm



Wed 1/13/2016 8:15 AM
Katherine Erickson
Historical Racing

To info

Action Items

+ Get more a

Chuck Trout
Executive Director
Texas Racing Commission

Mr. Trout,

I am a Republican who is opposed to the repeal of the Historical Racing rules. I am making a formal request that the rules be kept in place. I believe this will increase the viability of Texas horse racing tracks and bring money to our state. Please let me know if there is more I can do to keep these rules in place. I do not see a problem with historical racing machines.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine

Katherine Oates Erickson
Senior Vice President
Vanguard Public Affairs, Inc.



Sun 1/10/2016 11:57 AM
Jumbos Fireworks
Historical Racing

To info

We should keep historical racing for our tracks for survival in a desperate industry I have horses and may be struggling to survive because what do I do with my Texas bred horses also I want to emphasize that the decision about historical racing should be decided in the courts not by politicians who have accepted money from casino people outside the state of Texas please be assured that I am for keeping historical racing on the agenda until the courts have decided if the courts decide it needs to be done by the legislature then the Legislature should do it which means they should not oppose helping a Texas industry that is traditional in the state of Texas Thanks Ron Kotara



Sat 1/9/2016 8:11 AM
Robert Grunnah
Historical Racing

To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more app:

Mr. Trout,

As an active horse owner and industry employer, I am disgusted with the current administration's effort to destroy our industry which is politically motivated and funded by out of state interests. I am amazed at the obvious conflict of interests shared by those politicians who are blocking Historical Racing Terminals. Why hasn't it been disclosed that some of the Governor's largest political contributors, along with most of his legislative supporters, are out of state casino operators? Our politicians are under the false, arrogant position that they, from our Governor on down, can assume they have the moral right to decide what is best for their constituents without allowing those voters to express their opinion. It is wrong and needs to be exposed.

Thank you,

Robert Grunnah SR

P. O. Box 802736
Dallas, TX 75380



Fri 1/8/2016 3:51 PM

[Redacted]

historical racing

To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more a

I am an active race horse breeder and owner in Texas currently. I want to make it clear that I wish to keep historical racing at Texas race tracks. Texas politicians are making it very hard for those of us in this business to remain in Texas.

P. K. Thomas
1333 Farmer Rd
Weatherford, TX 76087



Marion Farnsworth

Historical Racing

[Redacted]

To info

Bing Maps

+ Get more app

Dear Texas Racing Commission,

The horse racing industry in Texas is in dire straights. Our inability to compete with the purse levels achieved by OK, LA and NM is strangling the industry. You must know that many, many Texans and their money travel to abutting states to utilize race tracks and the attending betting places.

I do not see the difference between bingo, lottery, raffles and historical racing. They are all games of chance.

I believe the withholding of funds appropriated is illegal. It does not speak well of our politicians to allow this, however it shows the lengths some politicians will go to stop the implementation of historical racing.

I have read the last posted Republican policy statement in effort to understand the position of Republicans elected to the State senate and legislature with regards to the historical racing issue. As a life long voting Republican I was appalled. It is not the duty of our political system to legislate morality, however the verbage tries to disguise it. If you don't want to see races and/or gamble; DON'T. It is not your right to stop others.

Please re-examine the issue and allow the implementation of historical racing in Texas.

Sincerely,

Marion Farnsworth



Fri 1/8/2016 9:11 AM

Ward Williford

Historical Racing

[Redacted]

To info

Commissioners:

Please vote in favor of keeping the historical racing rules in place. Texas racing needs more sources of revenue just like all racing in the surrounding states. The industry is very sound in those states and yet is struggling here. That seems crazy since Texas is in a period of prosperity and many of its citizens would like to play the game.

Thank you
Ward Williford

From: [Redacted]
Date: January 8, 2016 at 6:20:48 AM CST
To: "info@txrc.texas.gov" <info@txrc.texas.gov>
Subject: Historical Racing

Honorable Chuck Trout:

This is to request you take out of State interests out of this and allow Texas Courts to decide if the Texas Racing Commission exceeded it's authority in approving Historical Racing at Texas Racetracks. We have a small breeding and racing operation.

Respectfully,
Edwin Carrol Key



Fri 1/8/2016 6:21 AM

Carrol Key

Historical Racing

[Redacted]

To info

Honorable

This is to request you take out of State interests out of this and allow Texas Courts to decide if the Texas Racing Commission exceeded it's authority in approving Historical Racing at Texas Racetracks. We have a small breeding and racing operation.

Respectfully,
Edwin Carrol Key



Thu 1/7/2016 8:38 PM

galindokris

Last hope

To info

Good evening just want to send the Texas Racing Commission a quick email on Historical racing. First of all, thank you for being brave and helping the Texas horse industry and all the families who make their living from it. It's a shame that it seems all those in power who can make a positive change refuse too. You are our last hope in continuing TX horse racing. Please do not buckle to political pressure and repeal historical racing. If we are able to get the historical racing to pass it would be a game changer as you well know. So, do not let them bully you into submission if we as an industry down then let's go down fighting not a slow painful demise as these politicians want. You out last hope. Again, thank you for your help, strength, and bravery to stand up to those useless politicians who have no idea of what is going on in Texas horse industry and honestly seems like they don't care.

Kristian Galindo

Dear Sir,

I would like to voice my opinion on why it is so important for historical racing to be supported.

Not only is it critical to Texas racing and all of its Texas supporting businesses and families etc. but it also impacts the thoroughbred business country wide.

My wife and I run a mid size thoroughbred breeding farm in Bush Louisiana but we have always relied on Texas racing and horse sales.

It is shameful to see the horse industry to be in such dire straits. Unbelievable that racing, breeding and sales can completely disappear in Texas due to the inability to agree that the industry needs help.

The industry is in trouble country wide but Texas is in a position to save its place and develop new ways of growing its product.

My wife is originally from Texas and neither she or I ever thought we would see the day when Texans would allow themselves to be last or bad at anything very long.

We respectfully request the commissions support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Danny M Brown

Brown's Thoroughbred Farm

PO Box 333

Bush, La. 70431