



Senate of Pennsylvania

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

On behalf of the twenty-three thousand Pennsylvanians whose livelihoods depend on the Commonwealth's equine racing and breeding industry, we are asking you to reconsider your decision to delay live racing without spectators at our state's horseracing tracks. We are confident that racing can resume in a safe and economically feasible manner and that allowing racing is consistent with the actions your administration has already taken to allow outdoor activities in Pennsylvania.

Unlike factories which are able to turnoff machinery during a public health emergency, there is no switch on a horse. Horses require daily care, and since shutdown orders have stopped live racing in Pennsylvania, the equine industry has stepped up in an unprecedented manner to ensure the welfare of seventeen thousand racehorses that are residents at Pennsylvania's six racetracks and surrounding farms. Unfortunately, the shutdown does not have the ability to reduce the expenses for the daily care of equine athletes. Expenses remain constant while revenues are reduced to zero. When Pennsylvania shutdown, our track operators and horsemen organizations worked immediately and collaboratively to develop protocols that protect both our horses and the trainers, grooms, riders, veterinarians and others that care for them daily.

Even amid the current quarantine conditions, the workforce that is in place at the racetracks with backside stable facilities continue to work on a daily basis to ensure the safety and welfare of the equine athletes. The individuals who are currently at the tracks to provide daily care for the horses in the mornings and evenings – such as trainers, exercise riders, jockeys, drivers, veterinarians, and track maintenance personnel – are largely the same individuals necessary for live racing making additional exposure required to conduct live-racing minimal.

Since the COVID-19 mitigation was put in place, horsemen have been socially distancing and following the protocols put in place while caring and exercising the horses. Even with a number of individuals residing on the backside of three Pennsylvania racetracks in dormitory-style accommodations, there have been no outbreaks at the tracks since the mitigation efforts began. These same efforts could easily be put in place with the resumption of live-racing. Moreover, Pennsylvania would not be an outlier in permitting live-racing. The National Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

have developed comprehensive protocols to allow the safe resumption of racing and major racing jurisdictions such as Florida and Arkansas have allowed horseracing to continue without spectators under these protocols. Other neighboring states such as Maryland and New Jersey are also expected to soon resume live racing.

As Pennsylvania begins to recover from the immediate health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and we turn our attention to restoring our Commonwealth's economic health, it is important to allow industries, like the equine industry, that can safely resume operations -- through scientific and evidence based mitigation methods such as social distancing and other protocols -- to resume operations as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you to resume live-racing and getting all Pennsylvanians back to work.

Sincerely,



Robert Tomlinson
State Senator, 6th District



Thomas Killion
State Senator, 9th District



David Arnold
State Senator, 48th District



Camera Bartolotta
State Senator, 46th District



John DiSanto
State Senator, 15th District



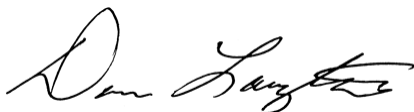
John Gordner
State Senator, 27th District



Scott Hutchinson
State Senator, 21st District



Wayne Langerholc Jr.
State Senator, 35th District



Daniel Laughlin
State Senator, 49th District



Scott Martin
State Senator, 13th District



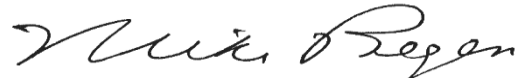
Doug Mastriano
State Senator, 33rd District



Bob Mensch
State Senator, 24th District



Joe Pittman
State Senator, 41st District



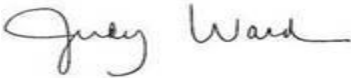
Mike Regan
State Senator, 31st District



Patrick Stefano
State Senator, 32nd District



Elder Vogel
State Senator, 47th District



Judy Ward
State Senator, 30th District



Kim Ward
State Senator, 39th District



Gene Yaw
State Senator, 23rd District