

REGULATORY REFORM TESTIMONY DECEMBER 7, 2021

Last week Ontario Lottery & Gaming issued a comprehensive study on the Economic Contribution of Horse Racing in Ontario and it compliments many other studies on the REAL VALUE of a HEALTHY HORSE RACING & BREEDING INDUSTRY.

The economic impact study was done to assess the direct and spin off contributions of Ontario's horse racing sector and the results were **VERY IMPRESSIVE**. The Ontario horse racing sector spent **\$1.86B** on operational and capital expenditures annually and the bulk of that, **\$1.45B**, was attributed to the horse people and **\$376M** to racetracks. The Industry supports over **22,965 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS** and **GENERATED \$327M** in TAX REVENUE!

The study also found that it costs on average **\$20,916 PER YEAR** to produce and maintain a race horse in Ontario and **73%** of that relates to day to day support and maintenance of the horse. The majority of expenses were training fees and wages, hay, grain and feed, truck and trailer expenses, veterinarian and medical expenses.

Supporting any of Senate Bills 396, 397, 398 and 399 can help **IGNITE THE TREMENDOUS ECONOMICS OF A STRONG HORSE RACING INDUSTRY AGAIN HERE IN MICHIGAN ... FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE IN MICHIGAN!**

My family farm, Snow Ridge Farm is one of the last standing horse racing breeding farms in Michigan. When we started over 20 years ago the Horse Racing & Breeding Industry was a Billion Dollar Business for Michigan and we were just one of hundreds of small family breeding farms in our state. **TODAY** were proud to still be in business in Clark Lake, Michigan and 70 current and former race horses call **OUR FARM HOME!**

The decline in the Industry has decimated most of the breeding Industry in our state but **SNOW RIDGE FARM** is proof positive that race horses can drive enormous economic impacts for **MICHIGAN** with **YOUR SUPPORT**. Our farm has remained in business during these troubling times because surrounding states understand the value of our industry and offer attractive programs for

breeding and racing.

WHY IS IT THAT EVERY STATE that surrounds MICHIGAN has attractive incentives for the breeding and racing of horses? OHIO, INDIANA, ILLINOIS, WEST VIRGINIA, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, KENTUCKY AND EVEN ONTARIO HAVE ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES & PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF RACING DRIVES ECONOMIES AND JOBS AND THIS BEST DESCRIBED IN THE RECENT ONTARIO STUDY.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT OF SENATE BILLS AND HOUSE BILLS 4823 and 4824 OUR ONCE BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY CAN GET BACK ON ITS FEET AND RUN AGAIN!

PLEASE CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL LEGISLATION TO REBUILD OUR INDUSTRY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THAT CALL MICHIGAN HOME!

**Libby Myers
1-517-206-7610**

HORSE POWER RESTORED

THE PATH TO RESTORE A BILLION DOLLAR FAMILY BUSINESS FOR MICHIGAN!

The Michigan Horse Racing & Breeding Industry was a Billion Dollar Business for Michigan in 2002, employing over 40,000 Michiganders, with licensed horsemen and farms in almost every Michigan County*. Now a combination of Bills can reignite the Industry, create thousands of new jobs, restore racing and powerful grant programs with Michigan County Fairs and lead to unprecedented investments in Michigan Agriculture. The passage of online gaming created very very few new Michigan jobs but passage of Senate Bill 396 and House Bills 4823 & 4824 can create thousands of new jobs. Horses are labor intensive and every racing breed horse represents over \$30,000** every year in economic value to our state. Michigan is surrounded by states that significantly invest in the horse racing industry because every dollar offered in purses and incentives generates \$23 in economic benefits for it's state.** Passage of legislation will preserve green space, put vacant family farms back to work and lead to the rapid resurgence of the breeding industry throughout all of Michigan! The Breeding season starts in January so moving this legislation NOW is timely as we expect major investments and significant economic developments immediately with legislative approval.

*2002 State of the Industry Michigan Legislative Report. **2019 American Horse Council Industry Study



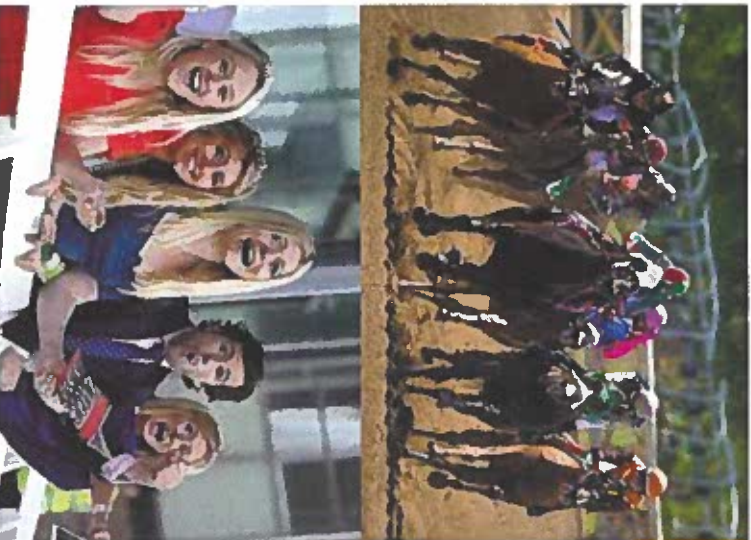
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SB396 will authorize Historical Horse Racing as a wagering option at Michigan Racetracks ONLY and includes numerous incentives to breed, raise and race horses in our state. Historical Racing has led to the rapid resurgence of the racing and breeding industry in Kentucky and a half dozen other states. Passage of SB396 will lead to new racetracks in our state and spark new jobs and significant investments in Michigan Agriculture. However, please note that the true impacts of Historical Racing on our Industry is unknown. While it has successfully created thousands of jobs and significant investments in other states, NO OTHER STATE has Historical Racing along with 27 Land Based Casinos, online casinos, sports wagering and lottery.

This is why House Bills 4823 and 4824 are also a necessary component TO CREATE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR MICHIGAN'S INDUSTRY! Passage of HB4823 and HB4824 will create additional revenues NOW, unlike SB396 which will likely take three years to create revenue for our state, track operators and horsemen. Breeding a Champion racehorse also takes three years from conception to the winner's circle but passage of HB4823 & HB4824 will create additional and immediate investments in the Industry. Revenue from these bills to the Agriculture Equine Industry Development Fund will fuel breeding and racing incentives and energize grants and revenue opportunities for all Michigan County Fairs! Passage of all three will likely RESTORE A BILLION DOLLAR FAMILY BUSINESS FOR MICHIGAN!





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