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March 9, 2021

Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Re: Bill C-218 Safe and Regulated Sports Betting Act

The Central Ontario Standardbred Association (COSA) who represent and support the horse owners, trainers, drivers, caretakers and others who participate in racing at Ontario's 12 Standardbred racetracks, requests that the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights to make two changes to Bill C-218.

1. In order to protect horse racing, retaining Section 204(7)(b) and amending as follows:

"(b) bookmaking, pool setting or the making or recording of bets, including bets made through the agency of a pool or pari-mutual system, on any horse-race; or"

2. In order to allow Historic Horse Racing, delete "horse races" from Section 197 (1) which defines the term "bet" so that it reads as follows:

"bet means a bet that is placed on any contingency or event that is to take place in or out of Canada, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes a bet that is placed on any contingency relating to a ~~horse-race~~, fight, match or sporting event that is to take place in or out of Canada save and except that, with respect to a horse-race, bet means a bet that is placed on any contingency or event in or out of Canada;"

Our association supports the regulation of sports wagering in Canada, but wants to ensure that our agriculture based, horse racing industry is protected in the process. Our industry provides approximately 50,000 full-time equivalent jobs and contributes \$5.6 billion annually to the economy.

In our first request, a key to protecting horse racing is to ensure that Provincial Governments and those contracted to provide single sports wagering pay their fair and appropriate share to the horse racing industry for the cost of breeding, raising and training horses as well as the cost of conducting races at racetracks.

The second requested amendment would include that ability to provide Historic Horse Racing as a pari-mutual wagering product where people wager on the outcome of horseraces that have been raced in the past. Information on the date, track, drivers or jockeys etc. is not included so that the specific performance data is not known to wagers. Once wagers are placed a video of the past event is shown and the results are revealed.

We appreciate your consideration of these important changes.

Bill O'Donnell
President