

To whom it may concern

Greetings my name is Mike Keeling. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for COSA , a horsemens association representing standardbred men and women in Ontario. I also operate an active racing stable as well as involvement in the ownership of breeding stock.

My wife and I are sole owners of 90% of the horses under are care, we generally employ 4 individuals directly and numerous indirectly through the use of many different vendors and professionals. e.g. Veterinarians, blacksmiths and feed supply.

The horse racing industry is unique in the fact our income completely results dependent, the purses that we race for are the only source of revenue that we have to draw on which to pay the various vendors for their services.

Raising, training and racing an equine athlete is a long term process and financial commitment. Horses cannot begin their training until 18 months of age and generally take a minimum of 7 months to be prepared to race. When you add in 11 months gestation it is no exaggeration to say there has been no income for 3 years before we have the opportunity to race. Our industry relies on the knowledge that our purse structure is relatively stable so we can make business decisions and plan for the future.

Horse racing has dealt with many challenges as the world has changed and peoples entertainment and gambling options have changed. The industry has generally found a way to get along with and compete with other forms of gambling fairly successfully. I think this ability to survive is no small part due to the uniqueness of parimutuel wagering in horse racing.

The legislation of single sports wagering is just a matter of time and politics and it may be beneficial as it will definitely reduce the amount of " gray " market gambling and keep Canadian gambling dollars in Canada.

It may also help the bottom line of the governments and their agencies that will regulate and host it. It absolutely does not need to crush a viable, sustainable and necessary industry like horse racing.

There is little doubt that even if protected from the probable damage of single sports wagering, horse racing will take another significant hit. It may be an appropriate time to look at alternative ways to market or sell the horse wagering platform. Historical Horse racing has been a godsend to several major racing jurisdictions in other parts of North America.

It is my sincere hope that those of you trusted to make these decisions take into account the importance and significance of value my industry offers in Ontario and all of Canada.

Respectfully, Mike Keeling