

Rick and Deena Bailey

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February 11, 2018

Re: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE HB 2545, a bill to bring back greyhound racing. I am a resident of Sedgwick County, home of one of the three Kansas dog tracks.

I am strongly against greyhound racing returning to Sedgwick County. The racing industry encourages excessive breeding of dogs – many of which are not profitable racers – who then are abandoned or dumped into animal shelters. Our local shelters are already burdened with ever-increasing populations; an influx of greyhounds will result in even more pets having to be destroyed because of a lack of room, despite the best efforts of shelters and animal rescues. Family pets and greyhounds alike will be put down sooner because of space constraints, rather than held to be reunited with their former owners or find new owners to take them.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. As of mid-2017, fewer than 20 greyhound racing tracks in the United States remain active. Whether due to concerns about how the dogs are warehoused at the tracks, the high numbers of greyhounds injured in training or racing that are put down, or simply because other forms of gambling are more engaging, the public's disinterest with greyhound racing is clear. Sedgwick County residents have taken their dollars elsewhere. Greyhound racing closed in Kansas because it is a losing proposition financially. When the impact of how the animals are treated is considered, the conclusion seems clear.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 2545.

Very truly yours,

Rick E. Bailey