

The House Federal and State Affairs Committee

March 22, 2022

Jim Gartland, Executive Director,

National Greyhound Association - Abilene, KS

Opposed to HB2740

Chairman Barker and members of the committee; thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Jim Gartland.

Currently, I am the Executive Director of the National Greyhound Association, headquartered in Abilene, KS, and have served in that capacity for the past six years. Abilene, KS is known as the "Greyhound Capitol" of the world greyhound racing and is home to the Greyhound Hall of Fame.

Greyhounds and greyhound farms have been a part of the fabric of the Kansas agriculture community for many, many years and yet here we are, once again, having to defend ourselves in the halls of the Capital.

I am opposed to HB2740 as written. I fail to understand why greyhound racing and/or simulcasting becomes part of body of these bills each year when it had been made abundantly clear that parimutuel wagering is not considered part of sports betting. This year's version of the attack on

greyhound racing is even more unusual than year's past as this time it calls for a ban on greyhound simulcasting while leaving open the possibility of live greyhound racing, but only under certain conditions and in certain, specific places. In what universe does a business owner get to circumvent and gut current laws and regulations in order to tailor them solely to suit their needs, while completely disenfranchising other included parties? Why should one entity be allowed to decide the fate of an entire state's industry based on their specific desires for one location? The answer to both questions is..... they should not. This bill is offensive and disrespectful to the entire greyhound community.

If the Ruffin group doesn't want to offer greyhound races or greyhound simulcasting to operate his "historic horse racing" machines, so be it, but why allow them to prohibit anyone else from doing so? This is akin to letting a McDonalds franchise owner write the laws on what other fast food companies are allowed to be operated in the state. This bill is confusing and contradictory in many ways and, once again, slaps one side of the parimutuel industry directly in the face.

Once again, I thank you for your time and stand for any questions you may have.