

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Winnemucca

There's More Than Meets The Eye

March 28, 2003

William J. Raggio, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
Nevada State Senate
401 S. Carson Street, Room 2134
Carson City, Nevada 89701-1400

Re: Senate Bill 3: Purses From Off-Track Pari-Mutual Wagering

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 3: Purses from Off-Track Pari-Mutual Wagering. Passage of this bill will not only help communities like Winnemucca produce a successful racing weekend each year, but it will help us overcome the effects of more than six years of economic downturn.

As Director of the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority, I am intimately aware of the cause and effect relationship between special events and local room tax dollars.

That relationship has taken on special significance over the past years as Winnemucca has been hard-hit by the mining downturn that began in 1997; the events of September 11, 2002 have also added to our loss by weakening our tourism economy.

However, we have found some economic respite through some of our special events. Each year, Humboldt County produces a handful of popular events, including the Shooting the West Photography Symposium, the Fifties Fever classic car fest and the Tri-County Fair and Stampede. Those events bring visitors to our community who stay in local motel and hotel rooms and allow us to then reinvest the resulting room tax into future special events.

Still, with our weakened economy, we are finding it more and more difficult to attract those visitors because of the relatively small size of our event purses. In the past, we have been able to generate large purses through the generous donations of our local businesses. Our current economic situation has stifled those donations and we are witnessing the resulting slowdown in our visitor numbers.

As you are likely aware, a sizeable purse can begin a positive cash cycle that sees more participants visit our community who then leave their mark here through room tax, sales tax, fuel tax and other money that trickles down through our business community. Without those donations, that cycle is cut short.



Winnemucca
Convention &
Visitors Authority
50 W. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
800-962-2638
775-623-5071
Fax 775-623-5087
e-mail: winnemucca.nv.us

EXHIBIT F Senate Committee on Finance

Date: 3/31/03 Page 1 of 2

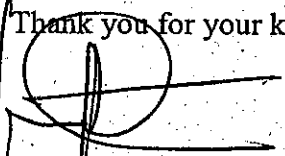
That has been the case with the Winnemucca Mule Show and Races (which this year will add a draft horse component to become the Mule Races, Show and Draft Horse Challenge). For 16 years, this event has been a popular early summer mainstay. In fact, it is considered the favorite of nine stops on a mostly California mule-racing circuit.

Even so, the last five or six years have seen this event suffer greatly because of its purse size. However, Senate Bill 3 could change that for our community. A sizeable purse would provide a ready attraction for this event that has already seen such success in the past. Proceeds from the event could then be applied to next year and so forth. Senate seed money now could produce a successful and stabilizing event for Winnemucca for many years to come.

In addition, such seed money might allow Winnemucca to reintroduce the Thoroughbred horse races that were so popular up until a few years ago. Those races had to be discontinued due to the high cost of purses, but we are confident that given the opportunity, those races once again could help us attract visitors to the community who will provide the financial boost that we so desperately need.

Please approve Senate Bill 3. As all those involved agree, we are not asking for a "hand-out" but a "hand-up." Remember, this isn't just about one event; this is about laying a foundation for successful event sponsorship that will ultimately lead to a stronger economic base for several rural Nevada communities.

Thank you for your kind consideration,



Kim D. Petersen, Director
Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority
Humboldt County Agricultural District No. 3