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March 21, 2003

The Honorable Senator Mark Amodei, Chairman
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Nevada State Legislature
Legislative Building
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Senate Bill 3

Dear Chairman Amodei and Members of the Committee:

The Elko County Fair has been a tradition in Nevada for over 80 years. Horse racing, with pari-mutual betting has been a part of the Fair since it's very beginning. Elko's 6-day race meet is the only live horse racing meet active in Nevada. However in addition to Elko's race meet there are mule races held each year in Winnemucca. Because of the declining gold mining based economy in northeastern Nevada, many of our racing sponsors are unable to continue their support and live horse racing in Nevada is in jeopardy as a result. The purpose of Senate Bill 3 is to assist County Fairs in keeping horse racing programs alive.

The local employment security office reports that since 1995, over 4000 people have left the work force in northeastern Nevada, primarily in Elko County. The negative economic impact to this area has been substantial and these facts make it all the more apparent, that positive economic events such as the Elko County Fair and Race Meet need to be supported and enhanced.

The annual race meet in Elko attracts horses from Wyoming, Utah, Oregon, Idaho and other Western States. The 2002 meet saw approximately 290 horses stalled at the fairgrounds. Less than 20 of these horses were from Nevada. Over 90% of the horses came from the states listed above. These horses bring trainers, grooms, jockeys, owners and racing enthusiasts to our community who spend money in our hotels, restaurants, casinos, retail stores and gas stations. Many of these individuals stay in our community for as many

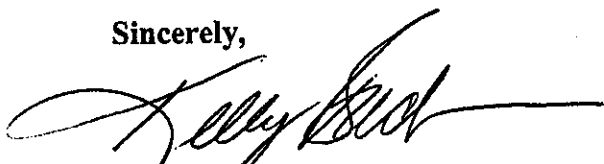
as twelve days. The overall economic benefit to this community is very important. Room occupancy rates in area hotels increase from an average 45% during the rest of the month to 60% to 90% during the days of the race meet. The majority of these rooms are occupied by out of state individuals. Room tax and sales tax revenues are tremendously increased during the run of the Fair. All these important economic factors are made possible by live horse racing.

It is unlawful to use operating funds provided to us by Elko County and the City of Elko for race purses. This requires that all funds generated by tickets sales, concessions and vendor rental fees must be used to support the purses for the race meet. By using these funds for purses, we are left with no funds to use for track and facilities improvement. This affects our ability to hold other events at the Elko County Fairgrounds. If we were to receive funds as proposed by SB 3, those funds would go to supplement race purses and we could use the monies generated by ticket sales, concessions and vendor fees to do much needed improvements and maintenance to the fairgrounds.

I have attached to this letter a schedule outlining the amount of funds that other states who allow pari-mutual wagering have returned to live horse racing from pari-mutual fees. This schedule is from fiscal year 2000. As you can see other states contribute substantial sums to live racing. We do not under any circumstances represent live horse racing in Nevada to be on par with other states. However we feel support of live racing in Nevada is appropriate as provided for in SB 3.

On behalf of the Elko County Fair Board, I ask that the Judiciary Committee support passage of Senate Bill 3. SB 3 would allow for the Elko County Fair race meet to continue which annually provides a very positive economic impact to the area. The declining gold industry in rural counties such as Elko, necessitates we encourage and support other important economic events in order to bolster our rural economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Buckner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kelly Buckner, Vice Chairman
Elko County Fair Board

TABLE 1

States with parimutuel wagering generally return a portion of the amount wagered to racetracks for use as purse monies. The following information was collected from racing commissions of several western states for the latest fiscal year.

	<u>Total Amount Wagered*</u>	<u>Amount Returned For Purse Monies</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
NEW MEXICO	\$ 118,320,348	\$ 7,161,662	6.1 %
OREGON	59,780,229	2,101,487	3.5 %
TEXAS	911, 358,815	39,585,678	4.3 %
ARIZONA	278,037,824	20,948,740	7.5 %
CALIFORNIA	3,847,522,821	163,343,830	4.2 %
NEVADA	488,800,000	0	0

* Live and Simulcast



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March 4, 2003

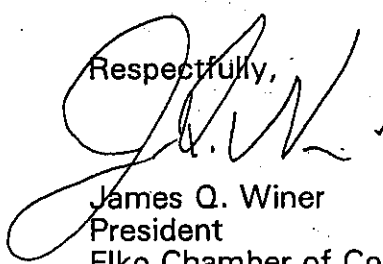
To Whom It May Concern:

The Elko Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has reviewed Senate Bill 3. SB3 is intended to reserve a portion of off-track pari-mutual wagering licensing fees to augment purses for live horse racing in Nevada. The Elko Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this bill.

The contribution to local, county and state taxes from money spent at the event is significant. Live horse racing generates hundreds of thousands of dollars during our Labor Day weekend events by bringing thousands of visitors to our community. Hotels, restaurants, and retail stores all benefit significantly by the increase in tourism. Supplementing the community's commitment to racing during the County Fair will help to enhance the horse racing events held annually.

Equestrian events are part of our rural lifestyle and our western heritage. Assisting rural counties with live horse racing furthers the aims of promoting our western culture and heritage.

Respectfully,


James Q. Winer
President
Elko Chamber of Commerce



Chairman of the Judiciary Committee
Mark Amodei
402 N. Division St.
Carson City, NV 89703

February 20, 2003

Dear Chairman Amodei,

The board of Directors of the Elko Convention & Visitors Authority at its regular meeting on February 18, 2003 unanimously endorsed Senate Bill No. 3 which is sponsored by Senator Dean Rhoads.

The bill will reserve a portion of certain gaming license fees from off-track pari-mutual wagering to augment purses for horse racing in certain counties.

The Elko County Agricultural Association District 4 and the Elko County Fair Board sponsor horse racing. In fact, Elko County has the only remaining track that runs horse racing in the State of Nevada.

Horse racing is needed more then ever since the overall economy in Elko has suffered these past few years, primarily due to the decline in the mining industry.

Ninety-nine per cent of the horses who run on our track are from out of state and really give a sharp boost to our tourism based economy. In fact, horse racing is the main attraction of our annual County Fair and the funds requested in this bill will really help our Fair Board keep this popular event alive.

Your support as Chairman of the Committee that oversees this bill will be very important in ensuring its passage. We hope you will honor our request and support Senate Bill No. 3. If you have any further questions on our position, then please feel free to contact me at 775-738-4091.

Sincerely,

Ralph McMullen
Executive Director
Elko Convention &
Visitors Authority

cc Elko County Agricultural Association District
Elko County Fair Board
State Senator Dean Rhoads

ELKO CONVENTION & VISITORS AUTHORITY
700 Norton Way, Elko, Nevada 89801

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e-mail ccva@elkoecva.com

COMMISSIONERS
SHERI EKLUND-BROWN
JOHN ELLISON
CHARLIE MYERS
MIKE NANNINI
WARREN RUSSELL

Board of County Commissioners

COUNTY OF ELKO
569 COURT STREET • ELKO, NEVADA 89801

ELKO COUNTY MANAGER

ROBERT K. STOKES
(775) 738-5398 PHONE
(775) 753-8535 FAX
rstokes@elkocountynv.net

February 19, 2003

Senator Mark Amodei, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
Nevada State Legislature
Legislative Building
Carson City, NV 89701

FEB 27 2003

Re: Senate Bill 3 - Off-track pari-mutual Wagering.

AN ACT relating to gaming; reserving a portion of certain gaming license fees collected from persons licensed to conduct off-track pari-mutual wagering to augment purses for horse racing in certain counties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Chairman Amodei and distinguished members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

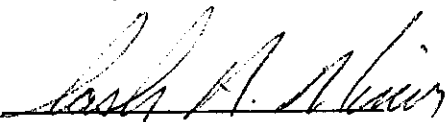
The Elko County Commissioner's at their February 19, 2003 meeting reviewed and discussed SB3. The Board formally adopted a position of support for the passage of this bill.

We believe passage of SB3 would enhance tourism in Counties which provide horse racing events. Increasing the value of "purses for horse racing" events would attract additional people into the region of the event whereby supporting the local economy through room taxes and sales tax. Additionally, if successful, this could lead to improvements in local infrastructure and employment opportunities.

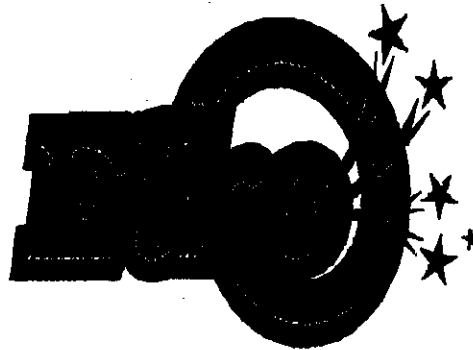
We would appreciate your careful consideration of SB3 and encourage your support and passage of this bill. Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

John Ellison, Chairman

By: 
Cash A. Minor
Chief Financial Officer
Elko County

cc: Stephanie Licht



elkocity.com

February 28, 2003

The Honorable Senator Mark Amodei, Chairman
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Nevada State Legislature

Re: Senate Bill 3

Dear Senator Amodei and Distinguished Committee Members:

The Elko City Council has given their unanimous support to Senate Bill 3, a bill that reserves a portion of certain gaming license fees from off-track pari-mutuel wagering to augment purses for horse racing in certain counties.

Elko County has experienced an economic decline over the past 5 years. As a result, we have seen a greater dependence on tourism to generate economic activity for our local businesses, and to fund government. Our community has seen an enhanced effort to expand local events in order to fill hotels, provide patrons for restaurants, and keep our retail sector solvent. One of these events is the Elko County Fair - a historic and popular event. Live horse racing enjoys a long tradition in Elko County, attracting travelers from all over the west. Horse racing is the key to keeping our County Fair alive. And the key to a successful live horse race is the ability to offer an attractive purse, something very hard to fund in difficult economic times.

Senate Bill 3 offers a solution by taking a very small percentage of the gaming license fee and directing it to the purses. Consider this small percentage an investment. If the purses offered are larger, the race itself expands, and gaming revenues increase. Thus, the end result could easily be a net increase in gaming revenues.

Please give your serious consideration to passage of Senate Bill 3. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Franzola
Mayor

1751 College Ave. / Elko, Nevada 89801
PH: (775) 777-7110 / FAX: (775) 777-7119
Email: citymanager@ci.elko.nv.us



DEAN A. RHOADS
SENATOR
Northern Nevada Senatorial District
MAJORITY WHIP



COMMITTEES:
Chairman
Natural Resources
Member
Taxation - Vice-Chairman
Finance

MAR 19 2003

Nevada Senate Carson City

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. Box 8
Tuscarora, Nevada 89834-0008
Office: (775) 756-6582
Fax No.: (775) 756-5544

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
Office: (775) 684-1447 or 684-1401
Fax No.: (775) 684-6522

March 20, 2003

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I apologize for not being in attendance for the hearing on SB 3, but due to a previous commitment, I will be out of town on Friday, March 21.

SB 3 would reserve a small portion (1/25th) of the monies received from off-track pari-mutuel wagering which would benefit horse or mule races in rural Nevada.

As a past member of the Elko County Fair Board and chairman of that board for 14 years, I have observed how difficult it is to generate the necessary funding to attract quality horses or mules to these race meets.

This bill would only benefit the rural counties that are currently, or sometime in the future, put on a racing event.

I urge your support of SB 3!

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean A. Rhoads".

Dean A. Rhoads, Senator
Northern Nevada Senatorial District

DAR/bb

BDR 41-41
S.B. 3**EXECUTIVE AGENCY
FISCAL NOTE****AGENCY'S ESTIMATES**Date Prepared December 30, 2002Agency Submitting: Gaming Control Board

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2002-03	Fiscal Year 2003-04	Fiscal Year 2004-05	Effect on Future Biennia
General Fund (Revenue)		(\$216,762)	(\$216,762)	(\$216,762)
Total		(\$216,762)	(\$216,762)	(\$216,762)

Explanation (Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

Assumptions for calculation is based upon formula in BDR 41-41 section 2, subsection c. Dollar value used is based on FY 2002 actual fees collected.

This amount does not consider any potential increase in revenue that may be collected as a result of the increased purse amounts

Name Dennis K. NeilanderTitle Chairman**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION'S COMMENT**Date January 31, 2003

Agency estimates appear reasonable.

Name John P. ComeauxTitle Director, Dept of Admin