



Alexander M. Waldrop
President & CEO

November 20, 2013

The Honorable Lee Terry
Chairman,
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Terry and Ranking Member Schakowsky:

We understand that at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2013, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade of the Energy and Commerce Committee (the "Subcommittee") will convene a hearing on the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2013 (H.R. 2012). H.R. 2012 is described as a bill to improve the integrity and safety of interstate horseracing.

Please allow me to update you on a national reform effort recently undertaken by the horse racing industry to enhance the safety and integrity of our sport. The reforms, which are comprehensive and far reaching, include: 1) uniform national model medication guidelines; 2) an enhanced penalty system designed to target individuals with multiple medication violations; 3) restrictions on the use and administration of furosemide; and 4) a laboratory accreditation and quality assurance program (the "Reforms").

These Reforms were developed by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium ("RMTC") and the Association of Racing Commissioners International ("RCI"). RMTC is the industry's scientific advisory organization consisting of 25 major racing industry stakeholder organizations. RCI is the industry's association of state regulatory bodies responsible for the integrity of racing. RMTC recommended the Reforms to RCI and RCI voted to incorporate the Reforms into their official model rules earlier this year. Individual regulatory bodies across the United States are already in the process of adopting the Reforms.

In fact, eight states in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, two regions which comprise the largest concentration of horse racing in North America, have already jointly agreed to implement the Reforms on January 1, 2014, or when a participating state's live racing begins in 2014. The states that jointly committed to implementing the reforms are Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Nearly a dozen other states are in the process of adopting these Reforms, and we are confident that by this time next year the overwhelming majority of horse racing in the United States will be conducted in accordance with the Reforms.

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The Reforms consist of the following:

1. **Controlled Therapeutic Medication Schedule** (“Schedule”). The Reforms include a “Schedule of Controlled Therapeutic Medications” which lists a limited number of medications that have been recognized as necessary for the treatment of illness or injury in the horse on a routine basis. For each medication, the Schedule lists a uniform detection level at which the testing laboratory is to report a positive test. It also provides horsemen guidance for discontinuing treatment to minimize the risk of incurring a violation. The Schedule is based upon many years of expensive, painstaking research by the RMTC and is scientifically supported so that each level of detection is specifically linked to the concentration above which the drug could affect the horse’s performance. These thresholds protect our equine and human athletes.
2. **Multiple Medication Violations Penalty System** (“MMV”). The MMV represents an industry-wide plan to provide enhanced penalties for those individuals who accumulate multiple medication violations, regardless of the jurisdiction in which they occur. Under the new system, each drug or medication violation is assessed points. A trainer’s record will be tracked by a central database maintained by RCI and available to state stewards and racing commissions. A trainer’s point record will include violations across all jurisdictions. At certain point total thresholds, the offending trainer will be required to serve a suspension in addition to any fine, suspension and/or disqualification levied for the underlying violation.
3. **Restrictions on the use and administration of Furosemide** (the “Furosemide Restrictions”). Furosemide is administered to racehorses on race day and has been scientifically proven to lessen the effects of a respiratory condition called exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH). The Furosemide Restrictions require that Furosemide be the only medication authorized for administration on race day and that Furosemide be administered under controlled conditions with a uniform detection level. The Furosemide Restrictions also require that the administration of Furosemide be performed only by third-party veterinarians or veterinary technicians who are prohibited from working as private veterinarians or technicians on the racetrack or with participating licensees.
4. **Laboratory Accreditation and Minimum Standards.** The Reforms require that every participating state’s drug testing laboratory must be accredited by the RMTC to standards set forth in the RMTC testing laboratory accreditation code of standards (“RMTC Standards”), which are the strictest laboratory standards for equine sport drug testing in the world. RMTC Standards include a requirement for lab accreditation to international laboratory standards known as ISO 17025 accreditation standards. Currently, three laboratories that conduct equine drug testing on behalf of six racing jurisdictions have received accreditation from the RMTC, and laboratories conducting testing for 19 other racing states have applied for RMTC accreditation.

The Schedule, MMV, Furosemide Restrictions and RMTC Standards are posted online at the following link: <http://ntra.com/lg/UniformReforms.html>.

While the Reforms are comprehensive and far-reaching, the process for developing the Reforms is ongoing. Additional substances may be considered for inclusion in the Schedule upon recommendation from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and/or the RMTC. Other aspects of the Reforms may likewise be modified in the future to reflect advancements in scientific research and development.

Currently, industry leaders are coordinating a nationwide effort to ensure passage of these Reforms in every jurisdiction in the United States that conducts pari-mutuel horse racing. Regulators are being urged to fully and uniformly adopt each of the Reforms without amendment or substantive modification by January 1, 2014, or as soon thereafter as practicable. In October, a letter cosigned by nearly 60 major racing organizations was delivered to regulators in 28 states outlining the Reforms in detail and pledging to provide any scientific or technical assistance required to implement the reforms in their respective jurisdictions. The list of cosigners is posted online at the following link: <http://ntra.com/lg/IndustrySupporters.html>.

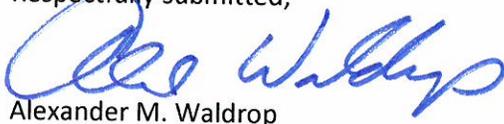
We continue to work cooperatively with regulators and local industry groups in multiple jurisdictions to push this initiative forward. In fact, concurrent with this Subcommittee's hearing on H.R. 2012, representatives from the RMTC, Breeders' Cup and the Thoroughbred Owners of California are appearing before the California Horse Racing Board to advocate for adoption of the Reforms in California. And earlier this week, the Illinois Racing Board approved the initiation of rulemaking to adopt the Schedule by a vote of 8-1.

The industry is also committed to an open and transparent implementation process. Earlier this month, we issued a detailed press release outlining the industry's progress to date. That press release is posted online at the following link: <http://ntra.com/lg/UniformRulesRelease.html>.

We thank the Subcommittee for its interest in these very important and timely matters and look forward to updating the Subcommittee regarding the progress of the Reforms as developments warrant. In the meantime, you have our commitment that we will work diligently toward full implementation of the Reforms on a nationwide basis because the Reforms are in the best interests of the health and safety of both horse and rider, enhance the integrity of our sport, ensure a level playing field for our competitors, assist horsemen who race in multiple jurisdictions and accomplish the uniform regulation of racing in the United States.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,



Alexander M. Waldrop

President and Chief Executive Officer,
National Thoroughbred Racing Association

Chairman, Racing Medication and Testing Consortium