

Iowa Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, Inc.

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January 28, 2020

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Chairwoman
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Schakowsky and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

The Iowa HBPA Board and membership which is comprised of over 1,100 horsemen are completely against this inane attempt at trying to dismantle the current regulatory drug testing and procedural policies in place by the State of Iowa through the Horseracing Integrity Act (H.R. 1754).

The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) is a nimble state agency that implements all drug testing in Iowa regarding horse racing, and they have our fullest commitment to continue to do so. Drug testing and policies related thereof, are entirely under the purview of the State of Iowa as they dictate how and under what circumstance our horses are to run. From the amount of money, track surface, to the types of wagering to be conducted, and including the safety and welfare of our horses via the types of drugs they can, or more importantly cannot have, the IRGC regulates everything.

For the federal government to rescind only one section of the entirety of what Iowa has under its domain is mind boggling. If the entire industry was to be run exclusively by the federal government whereby all aspects of racing were to be directly under federal control, then possibly this attempt to make federalization of the drug testing policies would make sense. That's if the federal government was to handle all aspects of racing safety, welfare, wagering, racing protocols, all of it. In this case, not only is this ridiculous bill not doing that, it's even handing off the reins to a non-governmental organization that doesn't have any type of oversight at all. Again, absurd on its face.

We, as the Thoroughbred horsemen of Iowa, reject this attempt to dismantle our states' rights via, the intentionally deceiving titled bill, the Horseracing Integrity Act (H.R. 1754).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David McShane', with a long, sweeping underline.

David McShane
President