

**Chairman Walden—Opening Statement,
“H.R. 2651, the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2017”
Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
June 22, 2018**

Good morning and thank you to our witnesses for appearing before us today to participate in our legislative hearing on H.R. 2651, the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2017.

From the American West, to the Kentucky bluegrass, to the renowned tracks in New York and beyond, horses hold a special place in our history.

Still today, across the country, and especially in Oregon’s Second District, horses are part of the fabric of our culture and economy. My district is home to the world-famous Pendleton Round-Up and local races at Prineville’s Crooked River Ranch Round-Up.

As you all know and appreciate, horseracing, in particular, has a storied history in this country and remains an important economic driver.

Our discussion of Mr. Barr and Mr. Tonko’s bill is also very timely. Earlier this month, the world witnessed history as Justify became the 13th horse to complete the Triple Crown.

Today, we will hear from you, the experts, about the horseracing industry, how it is currently regulated, and what can be done to protect these wonderful animals. We want to know your thoughts on the legislation at hand, its impact on the industry, and how best to promote the vitality and integrity of this celebrated sport.

You all have insights that will help inform us as to how we can address some of the concerns that currently exist in the industry. I thank you all for being here today for this important discussion and I am looking forward to your perspectives on this bill and this sport.

I yield back the balance of my time, and as we like to say in eastern Oregon, let ‘er buck!