



**DRAFT**

March 6, 2023

House Committee on Taxation

RE: Proponent for HB 2434

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 2434. The horse racing industry has been dormant in Kansas since 2010. When enacted, this legislation would play a critical role in revitalizing that industry.

As a publicly traded racing company founded in 1994, Canterbury Park successfully restored live racing in Minnesota after the track was closed in 1992.<sup>1</sup> There has been live racing each year since 1995. Canterbury recognizes that this bill could do the same for horse racing in Kansas, while also promoting tourism in rural Kansas communities and providing a positive economic impact to the agricultural industry.

A 2017 study sponsored by the Minnesota Racing Commission and conducted by the University of Minnesota's Extension Center for Community Vitality found that the return of live racing to Minnesota created a vibrant industry that "currently contributes \$409.2 million and 5,590 jobs to Minnesota's economy."<sup>2</sup>

The study further concluded, "...\$176.1 million was the result of direct spending by the horse racing industry—owners, trainers, breeders, Canterbury Park, Running Aces, and the MRC. Additionally, the industry stimulated an estimated \$233.1 million in economic activity at non-race horse related industries across the state. At \$409.2 million, the industry's total annual economic contribution significantly impacts the state. The industry accounts for 2 percent of Minnesota's leisure and hospitality industry."

Minnesota is proof that the racing industry can be a viable contributor to a state's economy. We believe HB 2434 is a critical step in restoring the industry in Kansas. Kansas horse groups that now travel to Minnesota to keep their industry alive have requested that Canterbury Park help in their effort to again see their home state thrive. We believe HB 2434 can help accomplish this.

It is for these reasons that we support HB 2434 and ask that you recommend it favorably.

Respectfully,

Randy Sampson,  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Canterbury Park Holding Corporation

<sup>1</sup> <https://canterbury-park-holding-corporation.ir.rdgfilings.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://extension.umn.edu/community-research/minnesotas-horse-racing-industry>