

February 13, 2018

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Travis Bartley and for the past three years I have held the position as President of the Kansas Greyhound Association. I am writing you in support of HB 2545.

I have been in the greyhound business my whole life. My grandfather started working with greyhounds in the mid 60's and my family has been in the business ever since. I grew up on the farm and loved working with the dogs. I learned many life lessons growing up on the farm. Many of these lessons I applied to life after high school at Emporia State University where I was lucky enough to play baseball and earn my bachelors degree. After college, I came home to help run my parent's greyhound farm. I am also the head baseball coach at Abilene High. Baseball and working with greyhounds are two things that I love the most - and what makes it great is I get to do what I love with my family. There is nothing more satisfying in life than sharing the love and passion of baseball and greyhounds with my two young sons. They love to go to the ball field or the farm and help out much how I did growing up. Now I get the opportunity to teach them the same life lessons I learned growing up on the farm.

Our family farm is located south of Abilene on about 40 acres where we have about 350 greyhounds on the farm. We also have a kennel currently racing at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Florida and lease dogs to several other tracks around the country. Our farm has six employees and we spend thousands of dollars here in the state of Kansas every year to run it. We spend money on farm equipment, feed, vet supplies, the salaries of our employees and many other items. Yet the majority of our income is made out of state.

I believe there are still many great years ahead for the greyhound industry and bringing racing back to Kansas would only solidify it. I have many great memories of the Woodlands and Wichita Greyhound Park growing up. I love watching our greyhounds we own and raised race, and the chance to hopefully be able to see it again in my home state would be amazing. I would love for my boys to have the opportunity, if they wanted, to continue running the family farm and continue our family's great tradition in the greyhound business.

As many of you know Abilene is the greyhound capital of the world and our national association and hall of fame are located there. It is a shame we don't currently have greyhound racing, the sport we are so well known for, here in Kansas. The passing of this bill would not only be huge for my hometown and county but the whole state of Kansas. I ask you to please support HB 2545 in making greyhound racing in Kansas great again!

Thank you,

Travis Bartley, President

Kansas Greyhound Association