

To: Connie Bahner
From: Debbie Jo Miller
Companion Animal Protection Society
RE: HB2545 OPPONENT
Date: February 10, 2018

I am the Kansas Director of Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS), a nation-wide non-profit organization dedicated to investigating pet stores and the puppy mills who support them since 1992. Thank you for the opportunity to address the greyhound racing issue in Kansas.

The greyhound racing industry is quite similar to puppy mills as the dogs caught up in this cruel sport spend most of their lives stacked in warehouse-style kennels for 20 or more hours a day or are kept outdoors in dirt pens with minimal shelter. Most enclosures are not heated or air-conditioned.

Many dogs suffer from fleas, ticks and internal parasites and are not provided basic veterinary care, human affection, or adequate sustenance. Racing Greyhounds routinely experience terrible injuries on the track such as broken legs, cardiac arrest, spinal cord paralysis and broken necks.

Greyhound racing attendance is dwindling nationwide as states pass laws ending or phasing out the sport and the public chooses not to participate in this inhumane enterprise. Part of the decline of Greyhound racing can be attributed to the dramatic loss in profits—gaming facilities are losing money on these races, and state governments often wind up having to spend more to regulate the sport than they get back in revenue. Over the past decade, gambling on dog racing and Greyhound breeding has declined by 66% and 57%, respectively.

Kansas citizens have already shown they do not support this horrid activity. It is deeply perplexing to me that humans propose this industry (as both entertainment and a viable business) from the neglect and suffering of another of God's creatures. That greyhound racing still happens is a national shame, and whether by market pressures or the power of our voices, it must end.

I ask you NOT to bring this cruel, inhumane activity back to my home state of Kansas.