

Online Comments to Senate Committee on Gaming

Comments submitted online between October 10 and December 6, 2013

Webpage: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Media/Topics/gaming>

Between October 10 and December 6, 2013, public comments were submitted to the Committee on Gaming using the online form below. The 1,686 comments then were compiled into this report.

Comments were categorized by professional staff into "Topics." Ten topics were listed in the form: (1) economic impacts; (2) community impacts; (3) family and social impacts; (4) compulsive gambling; (5) gambling and crime; (6) Racinos and pari-mutuels; (7) destination casino resorts; (8) cardrooms; (9) Internet cafes or adult arcades, and (10) other. Based on comments submitted, four additional categories were applied by professional staff, (11) online poker; (12) animal welfare or decoupling; (13) family arcades; and (14) multiple topics addressed by same respondent. Wherever the topic applied by professional staff differs from the topic provided in a response, both are reported (with the topic selected by the respondent in parentheses).

Within categories, responses are sorted chronologically, with the exception that multiple responses from a single person are grouped with that person's first response.

Submit Your Comments to the Senate Committee on Gaming

Friday, December 6, at 5:00 PM EST is the deadline for online comments. Thereafter, interested citizens may contact Senators by phone or in writing. Please use the form below to share reactions to the Gambling Impact Study or perspectives about economic and community impacts of gaming.

Email addresses and other contact information are public records unless exempted by Florida law. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, please do not submit a comment. Instead use the [Find Your Legislator](#) page to contact your Senator via phone or in writing.

* = required field

* First Name:

* Last Name:

* City:

State:

* Zip Code:

Organization (representing):

* Email Address:

* Topics:

* For or Against:

* Comments:

To prevent automated spam submissions, please answer the math question below:

* 86 + One

01—Economic impacts

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANGELA NEUBAUER
BRADENTON, FL 34212

Comments submitted:
10/10/2013 6:14:55 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Family and Social Impacts)

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

I am a proud mother of a 15 & 17 year old, and I have been watching the gaming industry for some time now. I can not believe that any of our government officials would disagree that the expansion of gaming would not only benefit our struggling economy, along with offering jobs, and last but not least, tourist attraction, as we all know our state is full of snowbirds and snowbirds love to go to the casino. I have heard crime rates would increase, that is surely not true, as to my previous statement, snowbirds are 60+ years old, really? Please allow expansion of gaming to all Florida areas!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK ROSENBAUER
SAINT CLOUD, FL 34772

Comments submitted:
10/11/2013 7:30:10 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

PLEASE, consider the beneficial impacts of casino gambling. For too long the people of Florida have been limited to the select, Indian run casinos while other states have taken advantage of the economical benefits! COULD there be crimes related to gambling? Of course, just as there is today with the exception that today, it's illegal unless you play a State of Florida run scratch off ticket or the various lottos. We have a crime rate now which is difficult to get a hold on. With additional revenues, more law enforcement officers could be hired without the direct impact on the citizens of Florida. Legalized gambling WILL add employment opportunities, as well as increase tourism to our state! As Florida grows (new construction is now on the rise) so will crime, but also increased demands for other growth related services increase, such as schools, public services such as trash and recycling pick ups etc. GROWTH costs us all. The addition of legalized gambling just may assist our state in monitoring growth with the additional needed funds brought about by legalized gambling. Unlike some other states, Florida has a unique advantage as already being a destination for many visitors and legalized gambling will only increase tourism throughout the state as well as increasing job opportunities!

PLEASE consider adopting a law legalizing gambling BUT allow it to be State wide and not just one area. Central Florida and South Florida are already tourist attractions and gambling will only increase the amount of visitors. However, other areas with lesser tourism demands would also benefit as they could allow the development of unused land, possibly creating an actual new destination for those who want only to gamble. A Southern Las Vegas, if you will.

Jobs, jobs, jobs are what the current Governor and legislature like to promise. Here's an opportunity to fulfill those promises!

Thank you,
Mark Rosenbauer

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATIE BOHNETT
TALLAHASSEE, FL 3203

Comments submitted:
10/11/2013 11:09:51 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

I firmly believe that the responsible and regulated expansion of gaming in Florida will increase our international and stateside tourism dollars.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | KATIE BOHNETT N/A TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303 | Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 4:09:00 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
|---|---|---|

This legislative session, the Destination Resorts Act was a sure-fire way to activate a bailout for Floridians financial woes. The bill would allow for multiple resorts to be built, however the most viable option is where gaming is currently permitted: South Florida. This would allow developers to get a start on the first project leaving future locations to be determined.

Forbes magazine recently named Miami the most miserable city in the United States. The ranking of the cities were based on jobless rates, violent crime, foreclosures, income tax and property tax to name a few. This information was gathered and tallied by the majority of local residents' who were making less than \$75,000 a year. Opponents of Destination Resorts have mentioned that this type of resort would create crime, unemployment, foreclosures etc. If this were the case why would any company invest with such a high level of risk and low level of foreseeable success? Logic does not come into play there.

As a Florida resident of 10 years, I have lived through the economic boom, the crash and this current up-hill economic climb. The recovery for our state and country has been very slow moving. The group in opposition to this legislation tried to claim a falsehood by messaging moral superiority over the largest job-creating opportunity in recent history. The No Casino's group claims were groundless because the legislation would have restricted or regulated unscrupulous out-of-control gaming in Florida while providing a vibrant boost to the economy.

As I child I spent a significant amount of time in Las Vegas. No, my parents did not drag me around to gamble. Both of my parent's professional careers demanded project management for an array of developments in Las Vegas. In 1988, after the Supreme Court decision to give gambling rights to Native Americans, my father worked extensively with Southwest Indian tribes to help develop casino plans. He would tell me stories about the extreme poverty that existed on these reservations, and how he hoped the well-deserved 'Indian Gaming Regulatory Act' would create a thriving industry and improve their entire community. With determination, planning and guidance the plans and hopes for the tribe became true. Some of the Indian reservations had new schools, new housing developments, and a completely new industry with hundreds of new jobs inside two years.

Although Miami is suffering and currently "miserable" according to its residents, the Tribe success can be just one simple example of how a project of this size can turn things around. I look forward to supporting destination resorts and doing my duty as a Floridian to see this project become a reality.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ROCCO RAO DUNEDIN, FL 34683 | Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 2:13:24 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
|---|--------------------------------|--|

the Indians have a monopoly, the race tracks are out dated, the Florida lottery is a terrible bet and the people of Florida need another form of entertainment other than Mickey Mouse. Give the tracks slot machines and expand gambling casinos as soon as possible. Create more jobs and increase the tax base.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIEL GRIEF
N/A
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401
Comments submitted: 10/13/2013 8:40:16 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

My comment is to clearly state that the best option here is to build one (1) casino in PB County and have no affiliations (NONE) with existing hotels, sports venues or dog tracks. The County / State should operate the casino (licensed out) receiving MAXIMUM revenues. Also, this plan would benefit and support LOCAL small business by being independant of the Trump / Rooney / Indian factions. While initial costs may appear to be better if underwritten by a particular hotel or gaming interest, the long term affect is to exclude many small local business' from gaining from the plan. The County could buy the old WPB City Hall and build a beautiful Casino open to all. It would boost downtown business, the infrastructure already exists and would help in attracting Hotels to the area (near convention center / downtown).

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JIM BELL
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32312
Comments submitted: 10/14/2013 11:28:21 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Other)

Myself and many friends gamble online. Some of my friends spend alot of time and money online. My parents and many of there friends (retired in Destin) travel to biloxi to gamble at least once a month.. Its just silly to be sending so much money out of Florida.
Thanks

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA OKEEFE
JUPITER, FL 33458
Comments submitted: 10/18/2013 7:10:39 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Other)

It is my opinion that expansion of gaming (casinos) could be an excellent source of income for Florida. A casino in Palm Beach County would attract a large number of people that now have to travel to Broward County. I would hope that our government investigates advantages of this program.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KARL KARRA
PALM BAY, FL 32907
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:52:18 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

WE NEED THE JOBS BUT MAKE SHURE THE PEOPLE WHO GET HIRED HAVE SOME CLASS , THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GAMBLING NEED TO BE TREATED BETTER THAN NORMAL , YOU GO TO CONNETICUT OR VEGAS AND THEY TREET YOU GREAT , THEY WANT YOU BACK, AND THE STATE MAKES MORE MONEY , THATS WHAT ITS ALL ABOUT THE MONEY. ID LOVE TO WORK IN PERSONAL

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NELSON BLACKMAN
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33060
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:34:05 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I would like to see in a democratic country like where we live, the wish of the people who want something and cant not have it hear and made right. Something that was, is and will be in demand but our country does not want to provide us with it, does not seem right to me.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BORIS COX LAKE MARY, FL 32746
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 8:14:36 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I think it would be great to have more than 1 casino company in the state i like we have more poker but we need more casino to generate jobs and bring more gamblers to the state. I still have to go to Vegas to get into a lot of big games. the Hard Rock is nice but it does not offer enough and over charge for rooms. we need more option if not people are join to head to Vegas a lot of Florida revenue leaves the state every month.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES W MCLELLAN CANTONMENT, FL 32533
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 10:14:26 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

By allowing casino and on line gambling (my primary interest is Poker) the state of Florida will see a substantial increase in its tax base, both at the local and state levels of government. Job creation for the general population - tourism increases with more desirable destinations available to attract people - and cash flow into the state economy. Further I feel that we should encourage and allow reciprocal inter-state poker play with those states that are regulated/licensed by their own governing bodies. I feel that its a win-win situation for our state and the states we partner with. Respectfully submitted for consideration

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES W MCLELLAN NONE CANTONMENT, FL 32533
Comments submitted: 11/16/2013 9:40:01 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Gambling and Crime)

The obvious positive impact on the economy by the licensing of Casinos and on line gambling far out weigh any alleged major increase in crime. Studies made by various law enforcement/legislative bodies in other states that have licensed casino/on line poker show only negligible increases in crime. As for gambling becoming addictive, I'm sure that some people are problem gamblers but they are a very small percentage of the total numbers of people that attend casinos or play poker on line. The vast majority of the people that attend are there to enjoy themselves, relax and play the game. I, like most people, set a limit. If I lose so be it, it's mine to lose not someone else's. If I win the same rule applies. I believe that Casino/on line poker should be allowed for people like me who enjoy the game, for those that don't, don't go to the casino but please don't let your personal beliefs dictate to me what mine should be.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA POTESTA MYSELF CLEARWATER, FL 33765
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 3:51:56 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I'm a 61 year old women who still works very hard and pay taxes ever year. I give back to the community very year. Pull names from a Christmas tree ever year and buy gifts to make sure ever child HAS a Christmas. I donate my blood to the blood mobiles. I donate filled back packs to ensue kids have the supplies they need when returning to school. The list goes on and on. I do these things without ever thinking twice and for people I don't know. Gaming is a form of relaxation and a right that show not be taken away from anybody. Casinos will create jobs and bring in revenue from people visiting our state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGARET HEELAN BRADENTON, FL 34202
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 7:23:18 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Destination Casino Resorts)

I am hoping that Florida and its elected officials wake up and realize that a good number of Florida residents would like to see gaming/casinos expanded in our state. We are sick of the Seminoles having the rights to all the action, and it would provide many more jobs. Also a lot of people are already playing online, all the major casinos have game sites that you earn points for your next visit there. Points can be used for rooms, food & shows among other things. Also why not bring back on line poker? make it a state run thing, but BRING IT BACK !! My husband and I are poker players and can't always drive that far to Tampa to play. We enjoyed on line poker sites.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETTY WALLER SELF BARTOW, FL 33830
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 8:51:21 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Destination Casino Resorts)

I would really like to see more gambling in the state of Florida. The Seminole Indians are very very terrible to the people that come there and have cut back on everything related to gambling. I would like to see other gambling business come into Florida I really like to see poker and also online poker. If you had more you would not see people going to Vegas and Biloxi, I know I would not go. I just would like to see more options, not bad people like the Seminole's have a complete control over all the gambling in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEFF KNIGHT NONE MONUMENT, CO 80132
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:09:37 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

A couple of items I did not see addressed in the reports (although I have to admit to some skim reading after page 125 or so):

I am now an out of state greyhound owner. Before I was an owner, I was a tourist and a gambler. Mostly I gamble online, but I am not a big gambler, I make small wagers (and I sure would like to see tracks invest the small amount of money it would take to produce a good internet product. They are leaving money on the table as it is because they are so far behind the times). I travel to Florida maybe 3 times a year to watch my greyhounds race. I don't bet much money while there, but I spend money on hotels restaurants and etc.

I would not spend travel dollars in Florida if there was not greyhound racing. Greyhound racing adds something to the tourist experience in Florida. Much as the government currently promotes "values" by favorable taxation (E.G. marriage) it makes sense to me to do something to benefit gambling that offers other kinds of entertainment, other kinds of benefits to the people (jobs), and does not have the "seedy" reputation of casinos and slot machines. Greyhound (or horse) racing does that - you can bring kids to the track and it is fun for them as it isn't all about the gambling. To me, there is some value in racing as a tourist draw. Colorado mismanaged things so that casinos wiped out racing. It was a mistake.

FWIW I have started running greyhounds in other states because I am not sure it is safe to invest money in greyhounds running in Florida because of the ongoing uncertainty about the laws. I have to think about what happens to the hounds after racing, and if Florida changes the laws in ways that cause a lot of dogs to become retired all at once I need to be able to take care of my hounds. That means less money invested in Florida.

Thanks for reading.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIC FUNDIN PENSACOLA, FL 32526
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 4:24:33 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Gambling would create Jobs for lots of folks in the pan handle who have been ignored by the powers that be. Allowing casino resorts in this area would do nothing but improve it. You are hypocrites if you don't allow all types of gambling. look at the revenue from lotto! 24 billion dollars! Stop pandering to the religious right! Keep their minority religious beliefs out of government decisions. Gambling already exists in this area without tax benefits to all! The state should regulate and tax gambling for the good of ALL. This is such an easy decision for an intelligent un bias decision maker if you can't see it you are blinded by some other political or financial reason that is unfair to the people. Do what's right for Florida and expand gaming before the Indians bring it in and the state cut out!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIC FUNDIN PENSACOLA, FL 32526
Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 3:22:42 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Destination Casino Resorts)

Check out this report on Biloxi. <http://biloxi.ms.us/PDF/Gaming2020.pdf>
We are already behind on this issue.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANTHONY MITCHELL TAMPA, FL 33634
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 12:38:45 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Other)

Florida has always worked at being a place to be for fun and relaxing.
Lets give people more reasons to come join the fun in Florida and not just beaches and our theme parks.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TIMOTHY KLINE ORLANDO, FL 32837
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 1:48:04 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Destination Casino Resorts)

Allowing card rooms to offer table games will create good paying Florida jobs. In Central Fl most jobs are low paying hospitality jobs at theme parks and hotels. We need to improve the salary base, increase tax revenues and increase the business throughout the state. Destination casinos will create jobs and Florida can directly compete with Las Vegas going forward. Online poker should also be offered through existing para mutual facilities in conjunction with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANCES KOSKI DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32120
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 8:04:34 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Other)

Why shouldn't Florida reap the benefits like other states. Floridians travel out of state spending millions to play in other states.

It will provide jobs, and raise money for the state.

Casino's could make agreements to adopt charities as a part of their community payback.

Compulsive gamblers are going to play lottery or scratch offs or in illegal betting places even if they do not have Casino's available.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CARL SCHWING
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 8:23:13 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

For expansion of gaming

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: IZZY HAVENICK
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 8:53:24 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

For expansion of gaming

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIE MARTEL
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134
Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 10:47:06 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Gambling and Crime)

The City of Bonita Springs has had a form of legal gambling since 1959 including greyhound racing, poker and simulcast racing, without a crime problem.

I support allowing slot machines at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track it will keep revenues in this area instead of residents traveling to Biloxi and adding tourism to another state .

It will help with tourism by bringing increased awareness of our city, region, provide more jobs and more revenue to both the city and the county. More jobs will help with the eliminating of crime. Poverty and lack of employment creates more crime than gambling ever could

More visitor would visit the Bonita Race track to play the slots than watch the races so the state requirement for the numbers of races the greyhounds that are mandated to run if dog tracks want to offer slot machines and/or poker would not be helpful to the area. I am asking you to consider passing a decoupling bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESLIE WOOTTEN
SELF
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85193
Comments submitted: 10/26/2013 10:08:13 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Community Impacts)

I am an historian of American greyhound racing. I do not want to write only about what was. I want to write about what is and will continue to be a vibrant and vital part of Americana. What I have observed in my many interviews in Florida and all over the nation is that those who work and live with greyhounds want the best for them from farm to track to pet. Love is the common bond. It is wrong to say "save the greyhound" because greyhound lives are not in danger as some would have you believe. It is right to say "save greyhound racing" to preserve a way of life and a livelihood for the incredible greyhound athlete and the people who serve them. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CARL BARRACO FORT MYERS, FL 33901 Comments submitted: 10/28/2013 9:41:03 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

1. The City of Bonita Springs has several types of legal gambling since 1959 including greyhound racing, poker and simulcast racing, these forms of legal gambling have NOT created an excessive crime problem.
2. I support allowing slot machines at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track as I do not believe this will bring forth any negatives, and in fact, generate more revenue.
3. By allowing the addition of slot machines I believe it will bring increased awareness of our area, as well as provide more jobs and more revenue to both the city and the county.
4. I am asking the Senators to reduce the state requirement for the numbers of races the greyhounds are mandated to run if dog tracks want to offer slot machines and/or poker. In addition, I am asking the Senators to pass a decoupling bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT GUNNING LOCKHEED MARTIN ORLANDO, FL 32835 Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 8:00:33 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

If the State of Florida is really trying to enhance and protect our brand - expanding gambling is not the way to do it. From an economic standpoint, expanding gambling will only encourage more service industry positions, - i.e. more hotels and restaraunts, vs STEM, transport, and logistics type jobs and businesses. It will not enhance manufacturing, (MADE IN FLORIDA), nor will it enhance our access to better STEM students or encourage the right sectors of education. If there is any contribution at all from the gaming industry, they are more negative than positive. The Gaming industry should be limited to what already exists; despite the fact that it has not enhanced the FLORIDA brand, in this case more is not better. Let's make FLORIDA Better. PProtect and grow the brand.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARLENE TOLEDO ST PETERSBURG, FL 33702 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 8:36:44 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

I believe that casinos would bring revenue to Florida. It would help food establishments, hotels, bring jobs, and taxes. I understand the fear of crime but that it reality and we will have crime in one form or another no matter what the situation. With a pro-active approach it can be curved.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEAN PAGE ORLANDO, FL 32812 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 5:36:22 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

I believe we can benefit from gambling expansion. Who am I to make moral choice as to whether gambling is right ir wrong? Meanwhile we should take advantage of economic benefits.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN JANIAC YLAHA, FL 34797
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 5:41:45 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Lessons should be learned from Las Vegas regarding mixing family activities with gambling. This did not work for them and it will not work for Florida. Our State is recognized around the world for providing activities which will satisfy the entire family and therefore; if Florida elects to expand our gambling locations, we will ultimately push away those families who were planning to spend multiple dollars on multiple activities for multiple family members.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESLIE MACLENNAN SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL 32459
Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 11:06:40 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I would like expansion of gaming.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JACK MILLER WESTON AREA CHAMBER WESTON, FL 33326
Comments submitted: 11/4/2013 6:20:07 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

With the proper Board and controls like Las Vegas has there is a stable job market of diversified positions just like any other Corporations. People that gamble are going to do it anyways and if controlled like Las Vegas it will put a positive way of additional positions but does have to be controlled properly protecting the consumer. It will expand additional tourists to Florida because many people will take advantage of the shows, restaurants and Tourism. Controlled casinos that can lose their licenses and or Night Clubs that are put out of Business will provide a better environment. There were Night Clubs from Miami that have lost there licenses and fines for not Breaking the Rules from Miami. It is worse having the night clubs that harm young girls and boys are worse. Indian gambling has brought money into the State but it is not controlled the same way but has helped the State as far as taxes but the large casinos that run large casinos in Vegas give back in many ways to the communities around them. The night clubs like the Hard Rock in Vegas owned by the Indians was closed down for a spell and fined over a 1,000,000 dollars for having individuals under 21. They check and double check anyone entering the night club. Since the Club is upstairs in the building on the strip of the two story building so they are checked downstairs and again when they are upstairs to be sure they are 21 or older. The Indians have their own rules and are not controlled the same and control the same way. The major casinos are building in almost every state and countries and they will not care since they will be every other State but Florida is a great state and draws people. Not everyone goes to Vegas to gamble and they do have great cities in Clark County that attract people from Florida that realize they live in a place that takes care of locals. Florida will be the place I will live for the rest of my life and I will continue to help it grow.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEVEN HEMKE APOPKA, FL 32712
Comments submitted: 11/7/2013 4:54:08 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

The expansion of gaming either online or live in casinos will offer great economic benefits to our state and the surrounding areas. Allowing new casinos will help Florida's economy and create new jobs and increased revenues for these local economies. Florida casinos should be allowed to offer poker and other table games. The Orlando area is lacking any casinos or card rooms, forcing us to drive to Ocala, Tampa, or Daytona to play. This is hurting the Orlando area economy and its residents. As for online poker, Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker. We are going to miss out unless we go forward with online gaming or fall behind other states economically that will offer online gaming. Regulated online gaming will add to the economy similar to the way the lottery already does in many of the states areas. As a citizen, I would like to be given the chance to play online and enjoy gaming here in the great state of Florida for many years to come. Thank you for your time.

Steven H. Hemke

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN HAUSER PUBLIC PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
Comments submitted: 11/9/2013 11:41:01 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Capitalism works let it work.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARTHA BOWMAN MEMPHIS, TN 38125
Comments submitted: 11/11/2013 4:51:21 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Community Impacts)

Please keep greyhound racing alive. The lives of thousands of people & greyhounds depend on racing. The people in the industry rely on the jobs it provides and for so many it is not just a job but a way of life. The greyhounds love to run or they go to retirement I should know a 23 month old greyhound wasn't interested in racing and is snoozing on my bed right now. These gentle animals' spirit would be crushed if racing didn't exist as they are born to run and still do after retirement in backyards across the country zooming around in circles for fun. My 3 retired racers would not be the greyhounds I LOVE so dearly had they not had the up bringing that goes with be a racing greyhound. Sure there are AKC greyhounds but they are NOT the same as an NGA greyhound. If racing is stopped the breed will cease to exist please don't be responsible for killing off another breed of animal haven't we humans done enough of that with our irresponsibility. Save greyhound racing a racing greyhound will race to tell you thank you & give you big hugs and wet kisses!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY TOTTY FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:33:33 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Keep our Money in Florida. So many floridians are going to Atmore AL and MS. Again Keep the Money Here.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LOU TROMBETTA PERSONAL TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303 | Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:49:05 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
|---|--|--|

I am an attorney with the division of pari-mutuel wagering and wanted to submit a comment based on my personal opinion about gaming in Florida. This is an important time to really consider reshaping gaming in Florida so it can compete on a global stage.

1st -- Florida already is a gaming state. The legislature should be working to ensure that gaming is done responsibly and profitably for both the operators and the state. The required numbers of performances needs to be changed; either completely removed or dramatically reduced. It is not sustainable for these companies to continue to lose more and more money in one area of their business in order to run another profitable area of business.

2nd -- There needs to be more central authority vested in the gaming regulatory body. Whether you create a gaming commission or just give DPMW more authority, something should change. Along the same lines, the legislature should not make specific rules but empower this body to be able to make rules and draw the lines. Gaming is a fluid industry, changing every day and there needs to be a way to react to the changes quickly. The current system is too slow.

3rd -- Please pay attention to the differences the Spectrum study made regarding the type of gaming. Large destination resorts will effect Florida very differently then a slot machine parlor in every county. We want tourist dollars we don't want to turn Florida residents into degenerate gamblers. Florida is already a global tourist attraction. Adding a limited amount of destination casinos will only attract more and a different kind of tourist and allow Florida to compete with Vegas and Macau.

4th -- Look ahead to the future. Internet gaming is coming (for many it is already here). Florida is currently losing money on horseracing being bet online with companies out-of-state. States are legalizing lots of different forms of internet gaming. Online poker is something very different from normal gaming that is also being legalized around the country (and should be in Florida). The Spectrum report discussed internet gaming very little. This is a multi-billion dollar market. Consider the effect of anything you do on internet gaming because you will be revisiting it in the near future.

5th -- Florida should be a competitive and fair market for gaming. Currently the statute operates to allow very specific tax credits and tax rates for specific permitholders or licensees. This needs to be fixed. It should be a competitive market that is regulated equally. You should continue to limit supply by limiting the licenses to foster and retain demand while at the same time allow true competition by making a more even playing field.

Since 2010 Florida has become somewhat of a gaming destination. That will only continue if one or two destination casinos are allowed. Specially poker players have been flocking to Florida. Poker is the only gaming industry that Florida has really regulated to the same extent as the rest of the big gaming states and Florida is now actually competing for these traveling players. If Florida can offer the same type of competitive gaming with other types of games, the same thing will happen. People will come here instead of other places to gamble because of everything else Florida has to offer. This is the model you should be trying to achieve.

Don't model the system to feed on Florida residents. That is where the crime and social harms are the worst. (see Spectrum). Instead a model where one or two destination casinos are built in existing tourist hubs while making the current pari-mutuel facilities competitive with each other and having a strong central regulatory body will have the best benefits with the fewest negatives.

I hope this finds you and you consider it seriously.

Thank you for the time.

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|---|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | THOMAS J ODOM DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FL 32433 | Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 6:17:55 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
|---|---|--|

I think that the economic impact to the state in taxes and licenses will be a big boost to our economy. I hope the comission will and can come up with some guide lines and recomdations that the law makers can use to come up with good laws for the control we will need.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN BONGIORNO ST PETERSBURG, FL 33713
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 3:57:43 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
Florida would benefit greatly from expanding and opening up casinos in our state. There are a lot of Floridians that travel to Biloxi or Atlantic City to gamble. All that money is going out of state. Busloads of Floridians go to Biloxi daily.. It would bring jobs, which we desperately need. We could have the best of both worlds, family entertainment and honest casinos for adult entertainment. A one-stop state for vacations..

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES ROBERTS SELF FT. PIERCE, FL 34982
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 4:51:16 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Destination Casino Resorts)
Allowing new casinos will help Florida's economy and create new jobs and increased revenues for local economies
Florida casinos should be allowed to offer poker and other table games
Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker
I should be able to use MY money on MY computer to play online poker as offered by other progressive states.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUDVICK IBANEZ MIAMI, FL 33129
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 6:28:39 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
I firmly believe that allowing new casinos will help Florida's economy and create new jobs and increased revenues for local economies.
Current security features like cameras, remote surveillance allows to implement casinos with a low impact on crime as shown by phter states as Nevada and New Jersey

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT BAUER LAUDERHILL, FL 33313
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 6:33:14 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
Allowing more brick and mortar casinos would help Florida's economy, create new jobs, and increase revenues for local economies.
Florida's casinos should be allowed to offer poker and other table games, especially poker since it's primarily a game of skill, not luck.
Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker.
Legalizing and regulating online poker would, in addition to increasing revenues substantially, enable the state to better prevent fraud and curtail underage and problem gambling participation.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROSA SALGUERO HIALEAH, FL 33012 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 7:01:52 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Other)
Allowing new casinos will help Florida's economy and create new jobs and increased revenues for local economies
Florida casinos should be allowed to offer poker and other table games
Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poke

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONALD WELSH SELF PALATKA, FL 32177 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 7:02:18 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Gambling and Crime)
People will gamble whether or not it is legal. Organized crime and others make a huge profit on numbers, illegal poker rooms and other forms of gambling. Legitimate poker operations controlled by reasonable regulations provide fair and monitored gaming and significant tax revenue.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAULETTE LANNIER PORT ORANGE, FL 32127 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 7:55:24 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Destination Casino Resorts)
I would like to see gambling become legal throughout the state of Florida and greyhound racing be stopped. After reading the 784 page informational report about gambling, I feel it would not be a bad thing for Florida to offer it's residents and tourists. Florida is struggling and I believe we should take note of how the Indians are benefitting. Please do what you can to stop greyhound racing. There is so much that stays behind the scenes that you may not be aware of, because if you were, I believe more would be done to protect them.
Thank you
Paulette Lannier

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KENNETH TAYLOR PANAMA CITY, FL 32404 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 8:18:59 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
We live in vacation state with most resorts being casino ready anyways. It will only help our economy by drawing more tourist and creating new jobs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MITCHELL COHEN PALM COAST, FL 32164 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 11:22:09 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I feel that the expansion of destination gaming, like Las Vegas, including table games and poker would be a significant contribution to the local and state economies plus satisfy the desires of the majority of Florida residents. Right now I will be leaving for another trip to Las Vegas as there are no Casino's in Florida in my area, Flagler County, that offers a complete gaming and vacation experience. This is a lot of money leaving Florida every year. The current Indian Casinos, Dog Tracks, and Gambling cruises are mostly unregulated and do not offer a full vacation type gaming experience. I also believe on line Poker, regulated by the State would a big source of revenue and provide a trusted regulated environment for the players. I feel the upside way outweighs any potential negatives and would best serve the needs of Florida and its Taxpayers.

Mitchell Cohen

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN N CLOE IV NORTH PORT, FL 34288 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 5:45:59 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I believe the income that's created by easier assessable Poker games, will generate and economic growth. It will create jobs and good paying jobs Poker players tip well. It will create an extra income for many players to help with there family life. I know not everyone wins. I really would rather a board person lose 100 dollars on gaming in a night than going out to bars and spending 100 on drinking. Give people more to do and they tend to stay out of as much trouble don't you think. I feel this is a no brainer, common sense. It would definitely help me in my struggle to make ends meet.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CODY BENNETT PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32413 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 10:34:23 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts Position: For Expansion of Gaming

First of all, I'd like to thank the committee for taking the time to hear from the community on the issue of gaming. I am a lifelong resident of Bay County, and I often play Texas Hold 'Em at Ebro Greyhound Park in Washington County. In 2012, the people of Washington County passed a referendum to allow for slot machines to be installed at Ebro Greyhound Park, however attorney general Pam Bondi prevented the machines from being implemented. Also, the park currently is required to run a prerequisite number of dog races in order for the poker tables to operate. This is something that should also be amended when the state legislature votes on this issue in 2014.

A vote against the expansion of gaming is a vote against economic liberty. Gambling is a voluntary act by consenting adults who know the benefits and/or consequences.

Current regulations differentiate between different types of gaming, when the act of gambling is essentially the same across all games. It is absurd and asinine to say that betting on dog races is an acceptable practice, but playing slots is not. It could be argued that the state sponsored lottery is very similar to playing slot machines: the only difference being that the state collects the majority of the revenues instead of a gaming house.

Most importantly, though, an expansion of gaming would help the state generate more revenue while bringing more jobs and prosperity to the people. I live in Panama City Beach, a town that thrives on tourism like many other places in Florida. During the season, our city prospers, but when winter comes many people find themselves struggling to make it through the off season. Gaming would attract tourism year-round to many cities in the state, and the taxes collected from the gaming industry would bolster state revenue.

It is my position, from a view point of personal freedom and economic common sense, that gaming should be expanded and deregulated on a state-wide basis. Thanks for your time.

Cody Bennett

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NEAL CASPERSEN PENSACOLA, FL 32514
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 6:14:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
casino's kill all the small businesses in the vicinity, especially food service and restraunts

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KEVIN HALL SELF PENSACOLA, FL 32514
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 6:30:05 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

It is time for Florida to take advantage of the benefits of gambling.It will add revenue and jobs to our economy. We can drive 1 hour north or 2 hours west and gamble. Mississippi and the Creek Indian reservation is benefitting from Gambling being illegal in Florida. As far as the crime rate increasing we will be able to afford to add police officers as needed if the money is managed correctly. If not we can continue to let legalized gambling in other states thrive while we watch from the sidelines. Times have changed and its time to get on board. Keeping gambling out of Florida will not decrease the number of people that gamble. We don't regulate the number of churches that take 10% of the members income, we don't regulate how many time a person can play the lottery or how many tickets can be purchased at 1 time. We also don't regulate how many time you can play bingo or the number of times that you can bet on dogs at the dog track. Florida also doesn't regulate the number of times or how much a person can loose at the poker room at the dog track. It is time to stop being hypocritical and legalize, regulate and tax Gambling in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK FORTUNE SHALIMAR, FL 32579
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 8:44:55 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I am a born and raised florida resident,however I have had to go out of state my whole in order to find gainfully employment.I live in the panhandle and there is almost no industry.Our area has always been tourist oriented and discouraged industry.This leaves a huge gap in employment opportunities fo the younger generation.If your a lawyer ,doctor,engineer etc.. Your doing just fine ,but if your not a college grad your employment prospects quickly go down to waiter,construction worker,beach service etc.I am 52 yrs old and still have young men coming up to me wanting to know how to get on in the oil fields because there are no good jobs here.They are leaving in droves to places that do have industry.I have worked as a captain aboard three different casino ships and I can tell you from first hand experience that they brought in good jobs ,not only at the casinos but more so for vendors that helped keep things rolling.And I never saw an increase in crime .I will be honest and admit I did see a few people in those casinos that had gambling problems.But In my opinion if the casino wasn't there they would be doing the same thing in a bingo hall ,dog track or a casino somewhere else .Its just their personality and a casino is not going to create them.I think legalizing gaming would really give our economy a much needed boost and create desperately needed jobs for blue collar workers.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIUS CHICK EXUM ELECTRIC INC JACKSONVILLE, FL 32246
Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 1:32:29 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I know this that when given a chance people will gamble to help them cope with life...I think it was good when we allowed people to gamble. When the corrupt people who stole money from the veterans they should be arrested and thrown behind bars forever...lawyers to boot...I cannot believe they did this....legal gambling will keep my taxes down

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN DUNLAP PENSACOLA, FL 32506
Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 7:52:04 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Why not

We have every other form of gaming.

Biloxi & Atmore are laughing all the way to the bank.

If you don't want to gamble, then stay away.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOSIE COTTI GULF BREEZE, FL 32561
Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 4:08:14 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I do believe that we should not expand gaming in the state of Florida. While there may be some economic growth in jobs, tax dollars, and other revenue, I do not believe those increases are worth the impact of the other side of gambling. As well, I believe that there are a lot of industries out there that grow higher paying, quality jobs for the residents of Florida than the service sector jobs that gambling will provide. The gaming we already have in Florida is enough.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ZACHARY STONE TAMPA, FL 33607
Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 7:41:35 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I am totally in favor of gaming expansion in Florida. Pro ECONOMY.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GERARD SOLA BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 2:57:28 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

I am absolutely for the expansion of local gaming in Bonita Springs FL!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CONNIE FURRER MIROMAR LAKES, FL 33913
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 3:09:27 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

The City of Bonita Springs has had a form of legal gambling since 1959 including greyhound racing, poker and simulcast racing, without a crime problem.

I support allowing slot machines at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track. This will bring increased awareness of our city, region, provide more jobs and more revenue to both the city and the county.

Please reduce the state requirement for the numbers of races the greyhounds are mandated to run if dog tracks want to offer slot machines and/or poker.

In addition, please pass a decoupling bill.

Connie Furrer

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN SPEAR BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135 Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 3:33:27 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Gambling and Crime)

Garrett:

I have lived in Bonita for 32 years, have served as Deputy Mayor (2008-2012), have served as past Pres./Chair of the Chamber, Community Foundation, etc., and have practiced law here full-time since 1982. I fully support expansion of gaming at the dog track. Much of the fear of gaming in any form or expansion thereof is simply not borne out here in Bonita. And the dog track has been a been corporate citizen here for as long as I have been here. The track provides a different "night out" for locals and residents alike, and expansion of the gaming and the expanded facility that hopefully will follow will bring economic development and renewal to the Southern end of the Old 41 corridor and benefit North Collier County, as well as Bonita and Estero. Please not only support this expansion but please, please become an advocate for it. Remember that the referendum from 2012 had citizens in Bonita and Estero supporting it by 2 to 1, and we know what expansion of the track will do for us and what will and will not come out of it. Thanks, and thanks for stepping up and serving. John D. Spear

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BILL DAUBMANN MY SHOWER DOOR/D3 GLASS ESTERO, FL 33928 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:18:35 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Gambling and Crime)

Sen Richter, Please accept my comments concerning the expansion of gambling in SW Florida and Bonita Springs, particularly.

Bonita Springs has had Dog Racing since 1959 and recently added Poker to their menu. This brings people, especially tourists and part time residents to the area and brings in added income with little or no impact on Public Services. Additionally, please pass the "decoupling" bill so that they do not need to increase the amount of dog races in order to add another "menu item". That would be another government burden that is against my political beliefs. Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES DATI BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 12:08:54 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Community Impacts)

Dear Senator Richter and Members of the Senate Committee on Gaming:

This past year, 63% of Lee County voters approved a referendum to allow slot machines at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track in Bonita Springs. These machines would ignite the Track's owners to embark on a \$90 million investment to create a first-class entertainment destination on the corner of Bonita Beach Road and Old 41.

I live within the city limits of the City of Bonita Springs, and I support allowing slot machines at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track.

Our city has had a form of legal gambling since 1959 including greyhound racing, poker and simulcast racing, without a crime problem.

Allowing slot machines at the Track will bring increased awareness of our city, region, provide more jobs and more revenue to both the city and the county.

I ask the Senate to reduce the state requirement for the numbers of races the greyhounds are mandated to run if dog tracks want to offer slot machines and/or poker. Please pass a decoupling bill.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PETER ROSSI
FORGE ENGINEERING INC.
NAPLES, FL 34109
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:17:17 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Gambling and Crime)

I support fully the expansion of gaming at the Greyhound Racetrack in Bonita Springs and support Carl Swings efforts in accomplishing what the voters approved.
Regards, Pete Rossi

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CECI LEON
MIAMI, FL 33165
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:41:52 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts (Gambling and Crime)

How many more casinos does this state need?!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LOWELL ROWLAND
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 8:34:29 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

In the current economic climate jobs are scarce and there is not really much industry moving into Bonita Springs. Housing construction is down and resale properties are not on fire either. This would be like finding money on the street for 500 prospective employees. JUST DO IT BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL FIND A PLACE TO GAMBLE. WHY NOT HERE??

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RANDALL LONGHOUSE
ORLANDO, FL 32820
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 4:30:15 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

Expanding licensed and regulated gaming outlets, whether online or brick and mortar, will create jobs and increase revenues. Even more importantly, free Floridians should be allowed to spend their time and money how they please, and not be beholden to the moral imperatives of a ultra-conservative minority. Online gaming has existing technologies to identify problem gamblers and restrict access for children. Please support gaming expansion for its economic benefits, and in the name of individual liberty. Thank you, Randall Longhouse

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK TAMANINI
CELEBRATION, FL 34747
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:03:03 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts

For years the economy in Florida has struggled and while Florida is a destination location for travelers we have not searched for additional revenue avenues to pull in additional business. In my opinion there are two industries that would add opportunities for growth.

* Resort Style Gaming - lets face it, would travelers rather visit LV in the middle of the desert (cold in the winter and hotx2 in the summer), NJ at all, or a beach lined resort in Florida for their gaming excursion? Bringing a large resort option to the space coast area would certainly help revitalize an area devastated by the loss of Space program jobs.

* Online Poker/Gaming. With more and more states figuring out the dynamic of this business it appears that - when regulated properly - this form of entertainment will bring much needed tax and licensing revenue to the state. Being an almost retired professional I can say it would be nice that when we start looking at places like LV to vacation to - we can actually look much closer and stay in the sunshine state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MATTHEW COHEN PLANTATION, FL 33317 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:47:37 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
I am against casino expansion in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARI BABKES PLANTATION, FL 33324 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:26:21 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
I am against casino expansion in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ADAM SINGLETON FT LAUDERDALE, FL 33004 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 11:32:07 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
I keep reading that race tracks and dog tracks want to expand their operation for Slot Machines... so they can stay in business. Is it the governments job to keep those places in business? Slot Machines only take the money from the people who live in the community they don't bring new tourism to town. GET REAL legislature ...we don't need any more gambling in Florida... we have enough!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TRUDY STEINBERG MYSELF MIMAI BEACH, FL 33140 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:26:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
Has anyone from this committee ever seen the blight Miami already has; why make this City even more depressed. We need high paying jobs not more service industry jobs that breed more corruption than we already have; have you guys up there forgotten Miami was bankrupt and the judges have to approve police officer hires here. That is not the type of business development Florida needs.
NO NO NO NO NO

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRISTOPHER GUZMAN GUZMAN MIAMI , FL 33127 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:33:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
I live in Miami, and I'm opposed to any expansion of gambling that includes casinos. The lottery never lived up to its promise. Why would we expect anything different from casinos? Even the Study that was done says that adding more gambling to the State would do little in economic benefit.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRISTOPHER GUZMAN HALLANDALE, FL 33009 Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 3:55:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Economic impacts
I know what casinos did in Atlantic City, and I don't want to have the same thing occur in South Florida. Casinos hurt small businesses.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | TERRY REES PALATKA, FL 32177 | Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:10:46 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Economic impacts | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

What about casinos' effect on small businesses? Casinos are a negative for taxpayers and small mom-and-pops who eek out a living as it is. And these casinos are owned by big corporations in Atlantic City, Las Vegas or China. They don't care about trampling the little guy. They don't care about community or people. Keep casinos out.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | BETTY CARLSON-JAMESON NORTH BEACH, MD 20714 | Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 9:23:04 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Economic impacts | Position: For Information Only |

I own racing greyhounds that race in Florida, at Palm Beach and Sarasota. One topic that I have not heard spoken about at the forums that I have watched is the economic impact of greyhound owners from out of state that visit Florida to visit/watch their dogs run.

The ONLY reason I visit Florida is to check on my dogs(I live in Maryland). While I am in Florida, I fly into your airports and pay those taxes, I rent a car and pay those taxes, I stay at a hotel and pay those taxes, I also eat out etc. what anyone does when traveling. Just my checking up on my dogs adds to the state coffers. I do not believe that I am the only racing greyhound owner that does this on a regular basis! And I will continue to do so as long as I have greyhounds racing in Florida. I hope to be able to race my greyhounds in Florida for a long time.

When I visit my greyhounds in Palm Beach I also always visit one of my favorite places Morakami Museum and Garden. In my opinion, one of the premier parks in the USA!

From what I have heard whilst watching your live public forums, I do not believe anyone has commented on racing (greyhound or horse) owners visiting your state. If you count the number of greyhound and horse owners not living in Florida who will visit only to check on their animals and spend money while in Florida - that is a huge economic impact. I feel you need to take this in consideration during your deliberations. If you pass legislation that could negatively impact greyhound racing in the state you would also negatively impact your tax revenue from owners traveling from other states wanting to visit Florida to see their greyhounds/horses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Betty Carlson-Jameson

02—Destination casino resorts

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIC FRODESEN
SALT
NICEVILLE, FL 32578

Comments submitted: 10/10/2013 9:32:07 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

Let's stop all of us from spending our money in Biloxi. Open some great casinos in Destin and other coastal cities.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BOB O'LARY
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32302

Comments submitted: 10/10/2013 11:31:47 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

I support FULL casino gambling of ALL kinds in Florida, irrespective of geographic location. From Pensacola to the keys, let gaming reign! Florida NEEDS the money!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRETT KOSHEL
SOUTH BEACH, FL 33139

Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 9:23:15 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

No gambling. It will ruin miami

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRETT KOSHEL
MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139

Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 9:11:24 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts (Gambling and Crime)

gambling will will bring all types of lowlifes and undesirables to south florida

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBORAH ACCARDI
SINGER ISLAND, FL 33404

Comments submitted: 10/12/2013 9:32:20 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

Since tourism already plays such a major role in our state's economy, the addition of state run destination casino resorts in Florida will be a major contributor and further boost to the economic health of our state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIEL SCHMALTZ
ORLANDO, FL 32878

Comments submitted: 10/13/2013 7:07:05 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

Florida its a great place for people to take a vacation and why not have more casinos, we have Hard Rock Casino in Tampa and in Hollywood Florida,
What's the difference, why the monopoly is Hard Rock Casino afraid of competition ? If Florida reject casinos in the state then all casinos should be closed down

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RICK ALESIA
OCALA, FL 34482

Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 8:17:05 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

we need more casinos to compete with the seminole

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA PIERCE
NONE
PALM HARBOR, FL 34684
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 9:11:08 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts
Please consider expanding gambling with more casinos.....full casinos with slots, poker, and blackjack. The economic advantage to our State is huge in the form of jobs and taxes. We need to move forward and consider what is economically viable for Florida....the baby boomers and vacationers could bring a large influx of economical growth.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANE MORGAN
ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:55:25 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts
I feel that the State of Florida would benefit from expansion of Gaming by creating jobs and revenue..... All of us who like to game travel to other States multiple times a year and would be able to inject our money into our local economy. For those of us without children the options for entertainment are limited to say the least!
Thanks for your consideration....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANE MORGAN
ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 11:15:15 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts
We desperately need to have gaming expanded in our state so we can offer something for all of us who travel to other states regularly for entertainment.
This will create much needed jobs and revenue for our State. Not to mention something to do in Florida other than the theme parks or bars, some of us do not have kids or like to go to drinking establishments and NEED entertainment...
Thanks!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANE MACCIO
EDGEWATER, FL 32174
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:59:25 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts
Please expand gaming so I can enjoy myself in the town where I live and not have to travel to other states!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES RAMSDEN
SELF
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32311
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 1:26:19 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts
The eventual building of gambling centered destination resorts will provide multiple benefits to both the economy of Florida and an uplift to the social prosperity of its citizens. The number of new jobs created by these destinations alone warrant their creation.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY JEFFRIES
LAKELAND, FL 33810
Comments submitted: 10/28/2013 5:19:50 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

We need competition for the casinos that are already here as going to the current ones is like shredding money. Look how things went in Pittsburgh Pa when they put more in. It will also create more jobs and God knows we need them Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANNA LOTTER
LAKELAND, FL 33801
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 7:04:20 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

I would like to voice my opinion on Gaming Casino's in Florida. The INDIAN Casino's are NOT CASINO'S. They NEED COMPETITION. They also should not be allowed to operate without some type of REGULATIONS. I doubt if they pay back 5% on their slots. That should be ILLEGAL.ADULTS leave Florida all the time to go to Mississippi, Las Vegas and New Jersey. These casino's treat you like a GUEST. They give you LOTS of PERKS. The best casino operator's alive STEVE WYNN and Mr.ADIELSON of Las Vegas would jump at a chance to open a casino here in Florida. They would hire so many people ,that Florida would probably run out of qualified workers. They are perfectionist.They also have casino's in Macaw. So they would bring in a LOT OF ASIAN TOURIST. Florida polititions can't see beyond the pitiful handout the INDIAN Casino hands out(Ask Charlie Crist).
Meanwhile , adults will continue to leave the state to spend their money on their type of entertainment.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT & MARCIA SCHMIDT
SELF
LAKELAND, FL 33810
Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 12:30:46 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

We both love casino gambling but going to a local Tampa casino is a "losing" proposition. Instead we go to Biloxi. We fly out of St. Pete/Clearwater. They fly 5 times a week and there are approx. 150 people on each flight. They also fly out of Jacksonville, Melbourne, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers, Orlando and out of the panhandle. All tshat money going yo benefiy Miss.could benefit Florida if they stayed here and we had a non-Indian and regulated casino. The argument that crime will increase is not founded. Bring a full service casino to FL and people will go there. Take away the Seminole monopoly and open it up.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATTY STROLLO
SELF
LAKELAND, FL 33803
Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 5:30:11 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

After attending a meeting re gambling I am somewhat confused as to what you are trying to achieve. Fl already has casinos as well as dog racing, horse racing and lottery. I believe Fl is ready for some casinos other than Indian casinos. The Miami area already has quite a few casinos. More casinos in other areas of Fl is what the state could use, but they would need to have venues for conventions and celebrities. Lakeland is a central location for such a casino and far enough away from family attractions and central to all of Fl. Casinos will bring more money to the state in tax revenues, construction, jobs and tourism. I can't believe crime can get much worse than it already is just watch the news re killings each day. You cannot stop people from gambling so why not keep them in the state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES GARRETT
SELF
MARIANNA, FL 32448

Comments submitted: 11/6/2013 12:31:57 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

Extending the rights of the counties to handle the expansion of gaming to include casinos in counties that already elected to have them is the most important issue. Washington and Gadsden have voted to have casinos and the State overrode their vote and said "nope can't do it" How did the voters get over ridden?. By one elected official, Pam Bondi. Who said "it's not your business, it's mine." If the legislature gives into the Sands Group thru lobbyist, all of you need to be voted out of office. Let the local businessmen develop what they can.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JASON JOHNSON
PANAMA CITY, FL 32405

Comments submitted: 11/6/2013 10:01:21 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

I believe that we should expand gaming in Florida. Here in Northwest Florida along the Emerald Coast, we lose a large amount of money to the casinos located just hours away in Mississippi. There are many families who choose to drive outside of Florida to spend their hard earned dollars at resorts that offer gambling, along with entertainment for both children and adults. In the economic times we face today, casinos would offer jobs to those in our community who have none, as well as, an influx of spending from neighboring states that do not have casinos. This would also provide a boon to those restaurants and businesses around the casino who would see an increase in traffic directly attributable to the increase of tourists visiting the casinos. It would also provide a substantial source of tax revenue for both the State and County, leading to increased/improved infrastructure.

I have heard the argument about the correlation between casinos and increased crime rates. I have also heard arguments against casinos because gambling is addictive and destructive. First, let me point out that there is also a correlation between high unemployment rates and increased crime rates. Therefore, I believe any increase in crime rates resulting from a casino would be offset by the decrease in crime rates resulting from lowered unemployment rates.

Second, EVERYTHING can be considered addictive and destructive. Alcohol, tobacco, unhealthy foods, video games, etc. can all fall into this category. The only difference between these things and casinos is that these items are all legal in Florida. At least with casinos, you have a chance to win something back and have a good time while doing it. With alcohol or tobacco, you spend money that you will never get back while damaging your health at the same time. This argument will never pass muster for these reasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will vote for the expansion of gaming in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROGER CABLE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258

Comments submitted: 11/8/2013 4:36:08 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

I would like to briefly state the frequency and destination of my casino trips and why I think our casino expenditures would help the state financially if we could have Florida as our destination.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA MOORE FT. WALTON BEACH, FL 32548 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 10:58:21 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Attention: Senator Garrett Richter

RE: Response to your Letter-to-the-Editor in the Northwest Daily News on November 13 asking for comments prior to the Gaming Committee meeting in Pensacola on November 14.

As a property owner and registered voter in Okaloosa County, I am very strongly opposed to any policy changes that would allow casinos in Northwest Florida, specifically to include Okaloosa County.

I am copying (bcc) this email to interested citizens asking them to express their opinions on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Moore

Fort Walton Beach

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SERGIO MOREJON SELF MIAMI, FL 33165 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 11:49:23 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Honorable Senators,

It is with out saying that the time has come for the State of Florida to get with the times.

We as a community of residents, have for the longest time been waiting for the FL. legislature to act on this very important issue.

Florida is a gaming state, please just look around you. Lottery, Indian Casino's, Parimutuels etc.

Please act now not next year now, and set up a gaming commission Ala Nevada or New jersey and establish the proper guidelines to close the internet cafe loopholes, and finally allowing full fledged casino gaming with the proper destination casino's that have been discussed.

Florida is a tourist destination and can certainly use additional tourist to the wonderful state. We can be a destination for families which Central Florida does very well. As well as a destination for adults with all the entertainment, value that the casino's attract.

Please don't allow the special interest to continue to manipulate and divert the conversation. With the typical scare tactics crime, drugs that usually are brought up when the gaming issue comes around.

Senators, we already have crime and drugs in our society. What people need and want is an opportunity to work and make a decent living.

With the many unskilled and unemployed people that we have in the state, the value of the many jobs that the large casino destination produce will help all of the residents of Florida.

So, with all the people of the state of Florida in mind, please finally put this issue to bed and produce a bill that addresses all of our needs once and for all.

respectfully,

Sergio Morejon

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLOTTE HOOVER FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32549 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 9:12:31 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Would bring many dollars to much needed Florida and much needed employment not everyone in Florida is retired.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM LASLO VALRICO, FL 33596 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 10:10:05 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts (Community Impacts)

Allowing new casinos will help Florida's economy and create new jobs and increased revenues for local economies
Florida casinos should be allowed to offer poker and other table games
Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHERINE KRESS PENSACOLA, FL 32501 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 6:13:36 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

If gambling comes to escambia county, I only hope the resort will not be on one of our beaches. Gambling is an indoor activity. Keep the beaches for outdoor activities.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROLYN JOHNSON PENSACOLA, FL 32506 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 11:18:45 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

I think we need gambling in Pensacola. It will bring jobs to the area and help. We already have a dog track and lottery

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT GREENHOUSE PENSACOLA, FL 32506 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 6:03:35 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

I have to drive almost two hours each way from Pensacola to Biloxi for entertainment. Why not have it here on Pensacola Beach! I can save on gas and Florida can get the tax revenue. I can even work on the slot machines with my Navy electronics experience.
Bring on a nice casino resort here in north west Florida. I'm all for it!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MERITA BLANCHET PENSACOLA, FL 32507 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 11:19:43 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

Set laws so Gaming Commissioners cannot be paid off so we can keep an honest playing field for those who want to gamble..That would cause people to choose our area over another.. Place them near water areas where tourist are likely to go...but not so close to the water as to get torn up during every hurricane. Don't place one where hwy 98 would become even more hazardous

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAUREN DAVIS PLANTATION, FL 33325 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:11:08 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

I am opposed to casino expansion in Florida.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

MICHAEL MURPHY
ORLANDO, FL 32812

Comments submitted:
12/6/2013 11:36:09 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Destination casino resorts

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

I fear the crime and corruption that comes from casinos. Florida tourism is unique and envied around the world. Florida should be proud to be one of the states without full-blown casinos. There is only so much money that can be spent gambling at casinos. Look at how states surrounding Atlantic City have cannibalized that city's casinos. And by the way, Atlantic City is a hell hole. Casinos never lifted the city's economy beyond enriching the owners of the casinos. Casinos are not going to draw tourists here from around the world. There are casinos everywhere. I read the other day that Japan is finally going to allow casinos. There are many casinos in Asia already. Let's keep Florida wholesome. And my other point is that casinos are a tax on the poor. Rich Floridians can afford to play there. But when I see casinos busing in residents from nursing homes, it makes me sick to my stomach. Keep casinos out of Florida. (It's bad enough we have to tolerate them on tribal land.)

03—Gambling and crime

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EVI PICKAVANCE
GREY2K USA
DUNNELLON, FL 34432

Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:59:44 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

Gambling is an unnecessary activity. There is no proven useful result in evidence. Gambling is costly and wasteful. Gambling attracts criminal activities. No to gambling!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA AMINGER
BURBANK, CA 91504

Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:11:37 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

PLEASE STOP, STOP, STOP!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN BLEILER
GULF BREEZE, FL 32562

Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 4:46:08 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

As a former prosecutor and also assistant public defender I would like to state my objection to the expansion of gambling in Florida. Organized crime and corruption of public officials always seem to go hand in hand with this type of activity not to mention an increase of crime generally. While gambling can become an addictive behavior for any member of society (with all the social ills that tag on to such an addiction) it particularly preys on the poor and the least defended among us... I can appreciate the Florida legislature's desire for increased revenues but it seems to me that taking the "easy road" of "gaming" will only lead to more problems for our state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MATTHEW CLAASSEN
JUPITER, FL 33478

Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 4:00:53 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

In a free society gambling is not a crime, nor is it the role of government to protect the people from themselves.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MATTHEW CLAASSEN
JUPITER, FL 33478

Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 4:50:02 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

In a free society gambling is not a crime.
We have seen in the years when online poker was active that it provided a platform for many, many individuals to practice and improve their poker skills. The result was the creation of many new wealthy players. The level of practice and development of skill can not happen when online gaming for real money is illegal.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGUERITE MYTHOLAR
SAINT JOHNS, FL 32259

Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 5:43:45 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

The element that comes with gambling usually comes with organized crime. I've voted no every time this has been put to vote. This also goes against any family values that I hold dear.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA BRODIN MILTON, FL 32583
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 6:15:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

THE ONLY ONE THAT WINS IS THE CASINOS
WE HAVE TO PAY FOR CRIME AND PEOPLE LOOSING WHAT THEY OWN DUE TO ADDICTION. IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE NEAR MILITARY BASES. WE DON'T NEED A REASON FOR CRIME TO BE EXPLODED KEEP THIS PLACE FAMILY ORIENTED. LET THE INDIANS GO TO THE DESERT AND GAMBLE THEMSELVES SILLY. THIS CAUSES CHILD ABUSE/NEGELECT. IT CAUSES OUR MILITARY HARDSHIP IF THEIR SPOUSES GAMBLE. NOT EVERYTHING IS ABOUT MONEY
USN/DAV 100%

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID MILLER NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 6:39:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

I witnessed the start of gambling in NJ many years ago; the mob came in as predicted and nothing positive happened for the community.
NO TO ANY FURTHER GAMBLING IN FLORIDA

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMANDA SHIPLEY BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 3:07:03 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

The greyhound track has been in Bonita Springs since 1959. Since it's legal to gamble on dogs, simulcast races, or play poker, I feel that slot machines and other gambling won't increase the risk of crime.
I think slot machines should be allowed. It will bring more revenue to the city & county, and more awareness to our area.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM CAMPOS BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 3:36:04 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

We have had little or no crime related to gaming at the Naples race track.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GREGORY MCNAMARA JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:58:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

Close the Greyhound tracks-- a breeding ground for the lawless and perbverted

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM VON ZANGENBERG PALM HARBOR, FL 34685
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:17:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

We don't need any more vices than the ones we have

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: COLEEN BROWN SOUTH PASADENA, FL 33707
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:51:44 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

This would be any kind of gaming or the use of any animal for gaming or the use of any thing or anyone who can Not speak for themselves. People are so out of control as it is Enough is Enough - Time to use better common sense if that is at all possible in our Government and our general public too!!!! STOP THE MADNESS!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AILI TABER ST PETE, FL 33702
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:57:21 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

This is in reference to the End Dog Racing campaign. Please support the discontinuation of this animal abuse for entertainment, gambling, and monetary gain of humans. THIS IS ANIMAL ABUSE IN THE MOST PUBLIC FORM!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHLEEN WIELATZ GREYHOUND DOGS TAMPA, FL 33634
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:01:40 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

Most humans have evolved far past using an animal's suffering for human entertainment and gambling: cock fighting, dog fighting, etc. Please show everyone in this state that you have evolved too by voting to GET RID OF DOG TRACK RACING. Show the rest of this country that people should treat animals with respect, kindness and generosity. These animals have no choice. YOU do. YOU'RE the HUMAN. Do the RIGHT THING.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KARINA VILLALBA MIAMI, FL 33178
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:38:53 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime (Family and Social Impacts)

I've lived in Miami, Florida for more than 30 years and it has grown as a city especially in the art and entertainment industry. Crime and other more corrosive aspects will come once gaming is expanded. I refuse to see Miami regress to crime because of a few interests. I hope you are against gaming as well.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TANYT BICALHO MIAMI, FL 33145
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:59:37 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

Stop!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PETE MARTINEZ BRADENTON, FL 34212
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 2:04:38 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

Please do not expand vote against

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL COHEN WESTON, FL 33326
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:52:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

I am against the expansion of gambling

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDSEY DAVIS PLANTATION, FL 33325
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:16:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

I am against the expansion of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VERN SOUTHARD FORT MYERS , FL 33905
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 11:55:00 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

At this time and age it is unconceivable that Greyhounds are kept for the sole purpose of human profit. They are forced to live in small kennels, exercised just for the purpose of training for the races, and euthanized in case of injuries, which are often treatable and would allow the dog to live a long life as a loved pet, but are considered too costly for a dog that would not be able to race and produce profits. A very small percentage are put up for adoption programs, never as puppies, thus denying the dogs the right to be pets and to enjoy the love and company of a human family from a young age. I sincerely hope the Florida legislature puts aside the so called "tradition" of racing and gives freedom to Greyhounds once and for all from exploitation. They are wonderful pets, they do not deserve life imprisonment for the sake of the profits a small group of people. Make Florida an example of humanity and care of those weak creatures in the territory." Marce Garcia Bonini

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MILAGROS HERRERA HOMESTEAD, FL 33013
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:58:23 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Gambling and crime

If Florida allows casinos, taxpayers will foot the bill for the crime. We have more than enough crime now without having to put more cops on the beat. What would gamblers do with their wins? Probably buy drugs. There are enough temptations without more gambling at casinos.

04—Community impacts

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM HANNAH
WINTER PARK, FL 32792

Comments submitted:
10/10/2013 11:03:27 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

I'm not a big fan of gambling, but at the end of the day, it's just another business. We don't ban coffee because some people drink too much of it. We don't ban alcohol, even though some people overindulge. But we ban gambling because some people think it's "immoral". If that's how we're going to operate, then the stock market should be shut down, because it's "immoral". (Seriously, it is.) If the zoning is handled properly (like, no gambling palaces next door to the high school) then I think everything will be fine.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TURNER CATHEY
N/A
MIAMI , FL 33126

Comments submitted:
10/11/2013 10:21:54 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

I feel strongly that expansion of gambling in any form should be denied, but I am particularly opposed to the construction of so called mega casinos in Miami-Dade County or any county for that matter. These self contained gaming centers contribute nothing to the surrounding community. Their goal is to hold the "gamer" within its walls until the last cent is sucked from his/her pocket. Gamers do not patronize other businesses in the neighborhood. The jobs they provide are low paying. The only businesses they encourage are prostitution and crime. South Florida already has some of the best vacation attractions in the world. The introduction of mega casinos would have a huge negative impact on the community and debase the quality of life. Do not permit expansion of gaming in South Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NEAL DUNN
SELF
PANAMA CITY, FL 32405

Comments submitted:
10/11/2013 1:00:42 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

The talk about economic gains is disingenuous. The jobs that are added to the community are generally not career jobs, but rather low paying hospitality jobs. We need to ask ourselves if we want our community to look like Atlantic City or Biloxi. I have visited both and would prefer not having to raise a family in those communities. They do not represent a worthy goal. The crime and corruption that inevitably attends centers of "gaming" is not an acceptable price to pay for the modest increase in economic activity. I do not advocate a prohibition style mentality to all gaming - let the Lotto and such continue. Let's not encourage "red light districts" in each of our cities.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: D.E. MILLER
VALPARAISO, FL 32580

Comments submitted:
10/11/2013 10:09:49 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Economic Impacts)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Gambling activities become an eye sore wherever they are, contribute people to spend money they don't have, cause all kinds of problems with families that are already on welfare. The Florida Lottery is a false kind; the money finds itself into many OTHER fundings instead of EDUCATION!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA COX PANAMA CITY , FL 32401
Comments submitted: 10/12/2013 11:45:12 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

This is a no brainer, we need the jobs!!! Community impact would be tremendous ! I am not a big gambler, but any casino/hotel/resort I have visited has been well run, clean, great restaurants and free of crime.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NOBEDINE PACKER GULFPORT, FL 33707
Comments submitted: 10/18/2013 10:35:01 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

Is the Florida State Lottery distributing the money equally and fairly to all Public School Systems? Since the State Universities Students need Financial help, I feel money from the State Lottery should go toward Scholarships to help college Students who need it also! I see Commercials about money being given to the Public school Systems, but you haven't shown how this is being done. So, our Community School Students are still suffering Academically, because they need more money to go into neighborhoods that is economically in poverty.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA PHEGLEY LOCAL CITIZEN COCONUT CREEK, FL 33066
Comments submitted: 10/18/2013 7:52:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Family and Social Impacts)

The ones in favor of gaming are promoting the wealth that would be coming to this area if gaming/fancy casinos/resorts were permitted. I propose that more indebtedness of it's citizens would arise and the only ones getting any money are the financiers of these places. Please, be concerned with the moral health or lack thereof in our community.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT FINVARB BAY HARBOR ISLANDS, FL 33154
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:32:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Family and Social Impacts)

With tourism in Florida at an all-time high the strongest argument supporting the expansion of gaming is completely muted. Further expansion of gaming will additionally have a detrimental impact upon our quality of life throughout the State. Please ensure that the quality of life for future generations in the State of Florida is preserved and not corrupted through an expansion of gaming.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL MARINO CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33065
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 10:25:25 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

I can see that a "Destination" type casino would bring a lot of jobs and a lot of tourist dollars to South Florida. However I would imagine that this type of attraction would have a significantly larger footprint than current casinos in the area. If plans would include locating these on waterfront property I would be totally against it, as the impact would be less area for Florida residents to enjoy beaches. Please protect our beachfront as well as the rights of Florida citizens who would not be able to afford resort spa prices to visit the beach.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAMILLA MCGUINN ORLANDO, FL 32819
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 6:20:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

My husband is an entertainer. Recently he played a concert in Atlantic City. The city is broken down. Obviously the money generate from the casinos did not help the community but made someone in another city rich. The residents on the streets all looked depressed. We didn't feel safe walking the streets. The streets were in need of repair. The employees in the casinos all lacked a sense of joy or even a smile. It is sad. The beaches there are beautiful but the casinos destroyed the beauty. Please do not let Florida become a pawn in the hands of the casino owners. By the way, my husband will no longer perform in a casino theater even though they pay twice as much as a Performing Arts Center. He doesn't want to be responsible for bringing folks to a casino and we hope Florida will not be responsible for bringing casinos to the beaches of this beautiful state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SEAN SCHWINGHAMMER SELF MIAMI LAKES, FL 33014
Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 10:30:36 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

Let me be clear. This is a slippery slope that destroys the fabric of a community while generating wild profits for a select few. As a life Long Miami, active parent, conservative Republican and former elected official I have explored this issue fully, as it has been seriously considered multiple times in my life. We have gambling now, it is has become a lifestyle for many, the jobs generated are, for the most part low wage, and the benefits are minor. WE have seen revitalization of some areas, but with that has come the increased prostitution, drug sales, and over all debauchery. At a minimum, the local area needs to accept it. Local officials are not the right ones to accept nor deny, as they are swayed to much by campaign cash and reflexive action to solve job situations quickly, without looking at the long term affect. Other areas of the sate may find is acceptable, but never in their community. Local communities needs to vote gambling up or down, not an elite few. This is to big an issue, which destroys propriety, to be dictated to an area. Our tourism does well and will continue, Gambling is not a solution, because there is no problem, gambling is a lowering of community standards to profit few. This must not be.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE TERRANOVA TAMPA, FL 33624
Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 6:41:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

I'm not for expanded Gambling in FL because it will attract Gamblers, i.e. losers, and because the money will end up into the hands of casino owners, not where FL small business owners really need it!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRETT KOSHEL MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 9:11:18 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

gambling will ruin miami beach!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREW HINES ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705 Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 5:12:24 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Other)

Floridians have on three separate occasions rejected efforts to amend the Florida Constitution and legalize casino gambling. The voters have consistently rejected this under the leadership of Florida governors such as Rubin Askew and Lawton Chiles. Civic leaders such as Jack Eckerd led opposition campaigns. These defeats, rendered by the voter, reflected a knowledge of the overall effects of casino gambling on the well being of people at large. Neither Las Vegas nor Atlantic City represent models for the future of our state. The advent of a state lottery in 1986 was the result of promises by state officials that such action would solve the financial problems of the Florida school system. The education issue has consistently been used by gambling interests as an excuse. Florida's future is best assured by following a higher goal. We do not need to become another Mississippi which legalized casinos in 1990.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRIS LONG HAINES CITY, FL 33844 Comments submitted: 11/5/2013 8:32:41 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Economic Impacts)

I think it would negatively impact Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY ANNE WINDES DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DESTIN, FL 32541 Comments submitted: 11/5/2013 3:06:39 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Gambling and Crime)

Gambling is not good for Florida, and we do not want it in Destin, Florida. It damages the existing economy by keeping patrons inside its doors, creates blight because other local businesses cannot compete, encourages compulsive habits, increases crime, and eventually destroys communities and families. NO TO GAMBLING!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAN MINER CITY OF CHIPLEY CHIPLEY, FL 32428 Comments submitted: 11/6/2013 10:27:10 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

The negative impacts to the community are too great and would end up costing tax payers more in the long run in dealing with the problems associated with gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RANDOLPH SMITH PENSACOLA, FL 32503 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 12:11:05 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

I am completely opposed to expansion of gambling in Florida. Especially to the building of more casinos.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JONNIE SHIPBAUGH
PERSONAL OPINION
PANAMA CITY, FL 32409
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:36:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts
Casino gambling was voted down twice in past years when it was put directly before the citizens. There is a reason for this. Our beaches (family based tourism) will be hurt by casino and destination resort casino gambling. It is not in Florida's best economic interest to have casino gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEVE KOWKABANY
NEPTUNE BEACH, FL 32266
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 10:29:23 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts
Having spent extensive time in the Vegas area, I can attest to the severe effect that extensive gaming has on a community. Not all of it is bad and there are benefits to be sure, but we in Northeast Florida are ill-equipped to deal with the social ills full-scale casino gambling brings. The economic benefit will not be worth the price we have to pay for this. Please vote against this issue and move, if anything, to reduce the current level of permissible gambling in our state. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RALPH AGNEW
NAVARRE, FL 32566
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 3:03:14 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts
Florida already has many forms of gambling going on (horse/dog racing,etc.) and casino gambling on Indian reservation. Senate needs to explore the economic/community impact on those areas. NW Florida is losing local money to those in this area that travel to Atmore, AL and Mississippi to gamble. So the way I see it, we either have gambling or none at all.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT WARNER
INDEPENDENT VOTER
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 5:39:02 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Gambling and Crime)
I would appreciate you using your time to help the people in Florida, rather than discuss this B.S.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM DONAHUE
PENSACOLA, FL 32504
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 11:37:00 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Gambling and Crime)
I moved to Pensacola after losing my house in Gulfport, Ms. during Katrina. It was good to get away from the Mississippi Coast and most especially the gambling cancer that has steadily grown over the last 20 years. We were told that gambling would bring in many tourists and that taxes would drop and schools would benefit. Instead, crime is now rampant, Mexican drug cartels have moved in, prostitution is widespread with oriental "spas" on major streets and safety is a public concern. All of the tax money gambling brings in goes towards more police and fire protection and necessary infrastructure spending. Real estate taxes are more than double of what they were 10 years ago and divorce, suicide, bankruptcies are common. Gambling is a cancer.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | VIRGIL SMITH SELF DESTIN, FL 32541 | Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 1:22:12 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Community impacts | Against Expansion of Gaming |

I am against expansion of gaming in Florida because it negatively affects local business and generates revenue by exploiting society's most vulnerable. Public corruption is also often a result, and families are negatively affected, as the Spectrum study shows.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARK GENERALES FT MYERS, FL 33919 | Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 4:00:56 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Community impacts (Economic Impacts) | For Expansion of Gaming |

As a family, we have thought long and hard on this subject and its potential impact on the state. We conclude that the positives outweigh any negatives. The general population should benefit from the entertainment activities that are now limited to reservations. I work in Bonita and find the local greyhound track a good neighbor that contributes to the community in a positive way and has not created any negative impacts at all. A renovated and enlarged facility that provides the attractions such a facility would bring the area would be most welcome. And the city would benefit as would all of its residents.

Our belief is that those who oppose the enlargement are well intentioned and miss the positive points while neglecting to note the various reservations around our state. It is time to allow locally driven enlargement in communities that wish to provide entertainment in their communities.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | VINCE MODARELLI BONITA SPRINGS ESTERO EDC ESTERO, FL 33928 | Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 4:31:01 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Community impacts | For Expansion of Gaming |

For decades through the 20th century, many visitors to Naples and Fort Myers considered Bonita Springs the entertainment hotspot of Southwest Florida. If you were one of those visitors who drove the family RV to camp on Fort Myers Beach, or maybe took a fishing vacation to the sleepy village of Naples, Bonita Springs was where the action was. That action took the form of greyhounds and the lively wagering around them. Ask around, and many of your neighbors will tell you that decades before they relocated to Bonita Springs, the dog track was their first impression of our community.

Of course, times have changed and our entire region is brimming with entertainment venues and myriad ways to spend time and money. However, the Bonita Beach Road interchange that The Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track made so famous in the 1970's is experiencing a rebirth with the potential to become the region's premier entertainment corridor. Scheduled to open in spring 2014 will be the Southwest Florida Performing Arts Center, with a 650 seat dinner theater just east of the track. Further west and about 80% funded, is the planned 400 seat auditorium to house performances for the Bonita Springs Center for Arts. All of these are at the north end of a Downtown Bonita community redevelopment area that recently received county backing to the tune of \$13 million for road improvements, on-street parking, and a general walkable destination for visitors and residents to enjoy.

The centerpiece of this entertainment rebirth could and should be the Greyhound Track. Locally, the voters of Lee County see it exactly that way. Last year, they approved a referendum by 63% to allow slot machines at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track in Bonita Springs. These machines would ignite a \$90 million investment by the ownership to create a first-class entertainment destination on the corner of Bonita Beach Road and Old 41.

The Bonita Springs Estero Economic Development Council strongly supports the County's positive vote to support the expansion of gaming in Lee County.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELANIE NICHOLS PENSACOLA, FL 32501 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:41:01 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Economic Impacts) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I am against expansion of gambling in Florida and in particular my city of Pensacola. I have seen first hand that there are NO economic benefits to communities with casinos. More tax dollars are diverted away from our existing needed infrastructure projects to pay for increased crime, and social programs needed to care for people who gamble away their money at casinos and then must rely on our Food Stamps, soup kitchens, and other government support to feed their families. Crime increases from people breaking into homes to get money to feed this addiction. Biloxi has had gambling for decades with multiple casinos and there is little change or improvement whatsoever to show for the tax revenue that has been received. Economically, it looks like a depressed City. No benefit has been achieved. Minimum wage jobs, higher crime, and more social services required. In comparison, where Foley, Alabama and Eastern Shore Alabama built quality shopping centers, the tax dollars received and jobs created were much larger and it has improved the entire city and reduced crime. Gambling does NOT pay. It COSTS the taxpayers.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PILAR PELAYO PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33028 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:09:27 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Casinos and race tracks not only promote deterioration of lives and families, but also animal cruelty. I will make sure to vote against ANY politician that aids and supports casinos and most importantly RACE TRACKS.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DR. RAJ CHANDARLAPATY PALMETTO BAY, FL 33157 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:02:37 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

We are against this practice and want it stopped.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: REBECA CASTELLANOS PINECREST , FL 33156 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:26:23 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Family and Social Impacts) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

We do not need so much gambling in our city. Also the poor dogs need to stop racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HUGO CARDONA AVENTURA, FL 33180 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:07:26 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please don't continue to ruin our State and its people

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHLEEN MORGAN
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:28:40 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

While county residents supported this initiative, the residents of Bonita Springs (and I am one) will bear the social and family impact of a business that will not generate quality jobs for local residents. Gaming is a quick, but socially costly, solution to a long term problem of economic development. The political leaders of the county and city would be better served by developing better long term strategies for economic growth that will provide quality, middle class jobs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA KAY
GULFPORT, FL 33707
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:35:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY BURKHARDT
COCONUT CREEK, FL 33066
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 3:30:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Family and Social Impacts)

In Broward County we have plenty of gaming for our community. We have restaurants and national performing acts that come here. Any additional gaming and entertainment will be for out of town visitors. This influx of people will clog our streets and overwhelm our small town atmosphere. This is a wonderful place to raise children and work. But if our streets and stores and entertainment venues are filled with visitors the whole ambiance of our towns will change. We will be more like a little Las Vegas. That is not where I want to live or raise a family. If I remember correctly, the study showed that there would be little advantage for our local community if gaming is expanded. I encourage you to deny any expansion of gaming in Broward County. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ADAM MICHALOWSKY
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:43:43 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

I am against casino expansion

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MAJOR LEE
SELF
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 11:18:20 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts (Economic Impacts)

I've read about Atlantic City's experience and how small businesses decline when casinos come to town... 40% of restaurants gone, small merchants have closed their doors.. South Florida's best interest are not served by any expansion of gambling
thank you
Major Lee

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ MIMAI, FL 33137 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:15:05 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

We have enough gambling in South Florida as it is with slot machines, pari-mutuel racinos at dog and horse tracks. The last thing we need is a casino with its crime and addiction. When will the legislature learn ... WE HAVE ENOUGH!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BOB ROSSASCO MIAMI BEACH , FL 33140 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:20:44 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

I know what casinos did in Atlantic City, and I don't want to have the same thing occur in South Florida. Florida isn't Atlantic City, we don't need more gambling we need less. There are to many ways to lose your money already in this state without the government prompting more. NO TO EXPANSION

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICE GUIOL MIAMI, FL 33133 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:03:03 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

I'm against any expansion of gambling we have enough already. Its to tough on the community to add more

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERRI JOHNSON SATELLITE BEACH, FL 32937 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:07:09 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

Taxes paid by casinos simply won't cover the costs that casinos cause, like requiring more law enforcement because of crime. Casinos cause gambling addiction. Obamacare isnt going to cover mental health. I can just imagine the surge in people seeking help for "casino addiction." Casinos are a rat hole. (So is Obamacare.) Florida deserves better.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIDIA GARCIA MIAMI LAKES, FL 33013 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:19:54 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

We have been fighting this expansion thing now for several years. when are you going to stop making the citizens pay for this... DO YOU JOB and keep them out of here!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA WADSWORTH MYSELF PALMETTO BAY, FL 33158 Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 4:13:48 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Community impacts

I believe the expansion of gambling will be detrimental to the surrounding communities in a number of ways;
Jobs will be mostly low wages
Higher crime (theft, corruption, prostitution)
Higher risk to potentially addicting behavior
Please do not expand gambling.
Thank you,
Maria Wadsworth

05—Family and social impacts

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BILL HAMMOND
CHIEFLAND, FL 32626

Comments submitted:
10/15/2013 11:20:35 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

After reading the full report I have two comments:

- 1) I myself work for a government entity and the one thing above all else that a government cannot and should not try to do is regulate morality. That lies strictly within ones own mind to do so.
- 2) Gambling has been around in one form or another since the beginning of time. It will continue to do so, it is far better to have legal regulated casinos where at least the state of Florida can benefit from the revenue than to get nothing from illegal gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRUCE PHEGLEY
SELF
COCONUT CREEK, FL 33066

Comments submitted:
10/17/2013 3:23:27 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

We already have plenty of Gambling establishments in our community. We do not need anymore.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES HINRICHSEN
SELF
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

Comments submitted:
10/22/2013 12:43:02 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

My entire family enjoyed playing poker on the World Poker Tour game site which is not a gambling site. Thanks to the Florida legislature we can no longer do this, apparently because prizes were sometimes awarded. For those who do not know, WPT was a subscription sevice and for a reasonable monthly rate, subscribers could play all the poker they wanted without ever risking a dime.

We are not against gambling sites, and feel that Floridians should have the same rights and opportunities as other Americans and people around the world.

I personally feel it is hypocritical for the state to run a lottery, which is the worst kind of gambling, and then get on a high horse about games of skill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICK O'GRADY
LONGWOOD, FL 32779

Comments submitted:
10/28/2013 5:35:36 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

We clearly do NOT need casino gambling in Florida. I don't really understand why we even allow the native Americans to operate casinos in Florida. That was a bad idea.

It would be a joke to think the addition of casino gambling would help our state budgets by bringing in new revenues. What we need to do is cut costs, not find additional revenues.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROLYN MCCARTY
AOPKA, FL 32704

Comments submitted:
10/28/2013 8:32:17 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

My family is very strongly against expanded gaming and or gambling in Florida. We do not want a Vegas atmosphere here and want to maintain a family friendly vacation destination for visitors.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMY MAYNARD GREYHOUND RACING CINCINNATI, OH 45211
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 1:32:25 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Hello my name is Amy Maynard I live in Cincinnati, OH with my husband and 3 children, and 2 RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS. If it weren't for greyhound racing my children would have never known the joy of having a very special and unique canine for a pet. We received both of our greyhounds directly from the kennels and brought them into our house. We could only do this because of the love and attention that they were shown at the track. When we adopted our greyhounds they were very well socialized and ready to be loved by us. If you ultimately do away with greyhound racing then there will be no pets for future generations.

I can also speak as the owner to 2 greyhound racing puppies, by buying these puppies I have given 2 greyhound puppy farms jobs and revenue, I have given 3 trainers jobs, I have given 2 kennel owners jobs plus the countless people who operate the track a job I believe that number is roughly 200 people. These jobs would be lost! People standing in the unemployment line!!! As a politician it is your duty to protect the American people. How are you protecting them if they are homeless, jobless, careless, and moneyless? These athletes are not mistreated or hurt at the track. Let's think about it logically for a minute if I put \$2000.00 to buy a puppy and raise it, another countless amount of money in feeding it, vetting it, training it why would I turn it over to a kennel for someone to mistreat it. I wouldn't! These kennel owners and trainers LOVE these athletes as their own dog. Are there dangers yes as with any sport, but at the end of the day the greyhound is one of the top five dogs to have a pet, people can not have these pets if you do away with greyhound racing!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHANE MOODY DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DESTIN, FL 32541
Comments submitted: 11/4/2013 5:15:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts (Other)

The Destin Area Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the expansion of gambling. It is damaging to our brand and to our quality of life/quality of place. Let's keep Florida a family-friendly and family-driven place to live, work and play. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN WILDS PANAMA CITY, FL 32405
Comments submitted: 11/6/2013 10:56:56 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Florida has a bounty of natural resources to attract visitors and bring in the all important tourist dollars. I see the growth of gambling in the state as a negative impact that will only distract from Florida's natural beauty therefore, I'm strongly opposed to any expansion of gaming in our great state. Also, as a teacher in the public school system, I often see the negative impact gambling has on the poor who are least able to afford the pull of chasing the illusive dream of quick riches. The expansion of gambling will hurt Florida's families and its children.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: F.P. HOPKINS PENSACOLA BEACH, FL 32561
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:57:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Can anyone who doesn't have a vested interest in casino gambling believe that expansion of it is a good idea? I think not. If casinos were required to pay all the costs incurred by casino gambling they would be bankrupt in a nanosecond. These costs include divorce, suicide, increased crime, broken families, increased poverty, increased police, courts, and prison costs. These costs to society are nowhere near balanced by the taxes generated by casino gambling. To allow for an expansion in gambling is to allow for an expansion in crime, broken families and poverty.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHIRLEY KNIGHT PENSACOLA, FL 32503 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 7:20:57 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts (Other)

From the information available to me expansion of gaming will do nothing to help the people of Florida. Any immediate gain in jobs will soon be offset by problems in families and with law enforcement. I am definitely against any expansion. The laws on the books at present need to be clarified but no additional gaming should be added.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOSE RAMIREZ PENSACOLA, FL 32506 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 6:02:38 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts (Gambling and Crime)

Gambling should be forbidden in the State of Florida. It leads to the destruction of families and family businesses. Gambling also exploits the poor. The average compulsive gambler has debts exceeding \$80,000. In addition, compulsive gamblers affect the lives of family, friends, and business associates. Some of the consequences of gambling include marital disharmony, divorce, child neglect, substance abuse, and suicide attempts. After the destruction of the family, the gamblers will eventually rely on welfare or unemployment benefits, impacting the government, and the costs could reach several billions of dollars per year. For all the above reasons, I oppose the state-sponsored vice of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SAMUEL GREEN KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 8:39:31 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Please allow me to go on record as opposing any future expansion of gambling on the grounds that no objective study or report specific to Florida has been issued on the matter. Because Spectrum Gaming profits, in part, by offering a number of services to the gaming industry, it would be inappropriate for the Legislature or any legislative body to use the information contained in the company's report as guidance in deciding how to move forward on the issue of gaming. The Spectrum report is not credible, and any further use of it is a violation of public trust.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RUTH EDWARDS PENSACOLA, FL 32504 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 9:14:18 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts (Gambling and Crime)

Please do not increase gaming in our beautiful State. I am a native of the Mississippi Coast area and have seen it deteriorate to a pitiful place of sad people, broken marriages, pawnshops, and ugliness. Let us remain a place where families can come to be together and play; Not a place where mom or dad abandon the family for the day And sit inside the smoke filled places spending money That could be spent in our restaurants and on our beaches.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BECKY REICHENBERG PERSONAL ST. JOHNS, FL 32259
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 5:54:35 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
Please do not expand any gaming or gambling in our state! We have a Las Vegas, keep Florida family friendly.
Thank you,
Becky Reichenberg

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BECKY REICHENBERG ST. JOHNS, FL 32259
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 9:56:04 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
Dear Senators of our great State!
I honestly see no benefit whatsoever in any type of Gaming or Gambling to the state of FL. Let's keep Florida Family Friendly. We have so much to offer the entire family to not only visit here but to move here, get a job, and raise their family. Why would anyone want to live anywhere else? Don't mess with it.
Thank you so much,
Becky Reichenberg

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREA WILBURN NONE PENSACOLA, FL 32526
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 6:20:49 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
I do not support expanded gambling in the state of Florida and I implore you to do the same. Gambling may bring in greater revenues, but money is only one factor in evaluating the strengths and greatness of our state. Gambling's ultimate impact will be to weaken our citizens' character, personal finances, and daily priorities. Florida's current strengths, such as tourism, agriculture, technology, natural resources, and its people should be the state's priority, not gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAUL SANDERS USN RETIRED YULEE, FL 32097
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 8:20:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
I've never seen gambling enhance anyone's life or well being. However I've seen families and futures wasted and destroyed by it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JON BROOKS PENSACOLA, FL 32514 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 12:52:03 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

There is much to tell. Gambling destroyed my marriage/family at 15yrs. My ex-wife had developed an addiction to gambling. She had accumulated in excess of \$47,000.00 dollars. As the addiction developed, her demeanor changed. Prior to, she was a very likeable, well thought of person by many. No one ever thought she'd become addicted to anything. Her sister is very well aware of her addiction as she to was going to Biloxi with her. I can not began to say the amount I spent in attorney fees other than staggering. My ex would never consider counseling for the excessive debt nor for the addiction. I spoke with a marriage counselor and had my daughter whom was 11 at the time to see a child psychologist. Gambling will horribly destroy many families and will continue to do so. We all know that for the love of money is the root of all evil. I don't understand, why do we need to worship money and have families suffering. I was paying in excess of \$800.00 per month in alimony and child support to my ex whom has a gambling addiction. Divorce laws do not take into consideration, addiction. We never wanted for anything. My ex paid the cable bill and bought groceries which became less and less which is when I became suspicious of there being a problem. I quit claimed the house to her which I was ordered to do. It had began to go into foreclosure. She had taken money out of her mother's account on line of which my ex's brother reported her to the police. Their investigation prove to be fact and they took action. My ex's mother was in a nursing home at the time with dementia. She has since passed and never knew her daughter was exploiting her. 15yrs of marriage had ended due to gambling addiction. I hope with my all, that our elected officials in Tallahassee do not pass legislation to allow gambling in Florida. It will result in much suffering like no one will ever imagine.

Jon Brooks
Escambia County

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK HUNTON MY WIFE & I PENSACOLA, FL 32504 Comments submitted: 11/16/2013 12:08:16 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts (Gambling and Crime)

Thank You Mr. Gaetz for your leadership. But no expansion of gambling. I think it hurts the poor. I saw in Mississippi they would go to the casinos and you know they could not afford it so I stoped going. The negatives far outweigh any tax monies. In the long run, only outside business people make money and leave taxpayers with crime, more poverty and low paying jobs. Thank You

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL WALLACE NAPLES, FL 34110 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:47:48 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

Gambling has become a pandemic in America. It undermines all our values of hard work and saving. It takes money from the most naive and vulnerable, who can least afford to lose it, with the promise of getting something for nothing. I strongly oppose the further expansion of gambling in any form in Southwest Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES DE VERA SELF JACKSONVILLE, FL 32244 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:54:37 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts

We Floridians are at best now compared to other states. There are a lot of Old & retired people who are the targets of this Gaming industry that would like to come to our states. Please please please if you love your states people grandparents, children & grandchildren don't ever, ever make florida another GAMBLING states.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN WHITE ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:12:58 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts (Other)
we have enough gambaling in Fl. there are to many children who are hungry and no place to stay. We need to take that money and give them some place to be safe and have enough to eat.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VINCENT MINUTOLO ASPCA PINELLAS, FL 33715 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:12:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
Gambling is never been a positive hobby for family , add this to the suffering of animals and the matter becomes worse .Dogs raising is a dying industry , do not force continuing of this game , do not allowed any more of doubling and prolong the suffering of these magnificent dogs. Vincent Minutolo

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JASMIN BARNABY SELF SUNRISE, FL 33322 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 11:21:02 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
Expanding Casino Gambling in Florida will lead to erosion of the family values. There is documented evidence that families are adversely affected negatively by casino gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEREIMA FERRER MIAMI , FL 33127 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:30:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
Florida suffers enough because of alcohol and drug addicts. Casinos would cause more people to become addicts to gambling. You ever watch the elderly or poor people lining up at convenience stores to buy scratch-off tickets? The lottery was a rip-off. Casinos would be too.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEREIMA FERRER MIAMI, FL 33130 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 4:57:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
The expansion of gambling increases the burden on law enforcement and adds no value to our community. I urge you not to allow the gaming interest to get their way.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GIANFRANCO PUPPIO MIAMI, FL 33156 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 5:41:54 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Family and social impacts
Totally oppose this decision, this will give a bad influcence to all the children of this community. Secondly, this surely it's going to increase the crime rate and we are going to add another vice to the people (gambling). The legislature should expent wisely the money of constituents. Thanks

06—Racinos and pari-mutuels

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN WEBER
GREYHOUNDS
ESTERO, FL 33928

Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 9:55:31 AM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

The gaming report seemed very clear to this reader additional gaming is not going to increase revenue. The greyhound tracks are waiting for the legislature to bail them out again. They have not up graded facilities in 20 years and yet greyhound revenue last year was up 11% according to annual par-mutual report. The three largest tracks also have taken in 2 BILLION DOLLERS from advanced wagering in Oregon that they own. They will also put 7,000 employees out of work if they stop racing. Please answer this question,, How can they keep a par-mutual license if they aren't racing?? They are just an off track betting parlor which is not legal in Florida. Thank you for your time

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN WEBER
GREYHOUNDOWNER
ESTERO, FL 33928

Comments submitted: 10/14/2013 12:20:54 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

The gaming committee needs to look at how Southland park gaming and racing promotes racing at their West Memphis, AK. TRACK. They will set a record handle and purses this year. They promote racing as well as their casino and are the most successful greyhound track in the country. Their handle this year is estimated at over 19 MILLION DOLLERS. Breaking last years record of 18 MILLION. WHY?? Because they promote racing ,instead of whinning and asking the legislators to bail them out like some FL. tracks are doing. Thanks for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIZ SNEED
PANAMA CITY BEACH, KY 32413

Comments submitted: 10/12/2013 1:05:07 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

We support expanded gaming at racetracks.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILL COWAN
RETIRED
PANAMA CITY, FL 32405

Comments submitted: 10/13/2013 12:31:45 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

Just a few comments on my observations for local gaming.
My choices are Ebro, home games, private clubs, going to other states. Ebro is not a good choice because of the high rakes (compared to other states) this is because of no local competition or state control in the area of rakes or how this money is returned to the gamblers. If I'm wrong I would like someone to at least regulate it (a gaming commission is required). I think the answer to this problem is a regular gaming commission and more local casinos.
I know for a fact that a lot of money that Florida could use is going to Bolxi or Alabama.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY HONIG
PALM BEACH GARDENS , FL 33418

Comments submitted: 10/20/2013 3:13:22 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I feel that a casino is needed in the West Palm Beach Area (like the Palm Beach Kennel Club), similar to the Isles at Pompano Racetrack. With one and a half million people in Palm Beach County, it is a shame that they have to run to Broward County for any decent local casino.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MICHAEL SEEGER INDEPENDENT GREYHOUND OWNER TOLEDO, OH 43615 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 9:04:25 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Racinos and pari-mutuels | Position: For Information Only |

As a independent racing greyhound owner., the impact of curtailing greyhound racing., will cost 100s of jobs, and millions of dollars of tax revenue., money the state of FLA cannot afford to give up. Yes, gambling is down in dog and horse tracks.,but there is millions in revenue and jobs being kept and created that cannot me overlooked. The dogs and horses are very well taken care of., and is regulated to keep them safe and honest to the betting public. Keeping greyhound racing alive is a win win situation for the dogs them selves....the people working, and the state of FLA in tax revenue. Thank you M. R. Seeger., Toledo OHIO

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MICHAEL SEEGER INDIVIDUAL RACING GREYHOUND OWNERSHIP TOLEDO, OH 43615 | Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 7:44:21 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Racinos and pari-mutuels | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |

Greyhound racing and betting is a huge financial benefit for the state of FLA. The greys, are taken care of, they employ thousands of full and part-time people., and it helps these wonderful animals get forever homes when done racing. Personally, I don't want to see the 100s of farms and 1000s of people nation wide, that rely on FLA greyhound racing to suffer. With all that is going on in Washington these days., there has to be no more heartache for these wonderful good hard working people. Thank you!!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JOHN PRISCO NONE CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33071 | Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 1:49:23 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Racinos and pari-mutuels | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |

Florida does not need Destination Casino Resorts. If all the Pari-mutuels were allowed to have full casinos am sure they would expand their operation including building a hotel. That would create as many jobs as the Destination casinos would.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ROBERT GROSS NATIONAL GREYHOUND ASSOCIATION GLENDALE, AZ 85303 | Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 2:52:32 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Racinos and pari-mutuels | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |

I have been a greyhound owner for many years, and have had several greyhounds compete in the state of Florida. I have spent quite a lot of time (and money) visiting the many attractions and pari-mutuel facilities in your state. Greyhound racing is a clean, honest sport, and the dogs are very well-treated during their racing careers. I hope that you can see through the fraud that is Grey2k USA - their primary concern is generating income to support the lifestyle of its husband and wife operators Carey Theil and Christine Dorchak (lawyers / lobbyists from Massachusetts). Their income is derived from donations resulting from lies and misleading propaganda.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | NANCY MICKEY G.R.A.C.E. GREYHOUND ADOPTION INDIAN RIVER, MI 49749 | Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 7:45:15 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other) | Position: For Information Only |

I would ask that you consider saving greyhound racing. The racing greyhound is a unique breed of dog that seriously loves running. If racing is stopped, the breed as we know it will be gone. That would be a very sad day to lose such a wonderful creature in many lives today. Regulate if you must but do not destroy the racing industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDIE GRIMES
OLDSMAR, FL 34677
Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 2:08:52 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

The Tampa Bay Downs is a historic attraction in our community and has always been a fantastic business partner. They also provide a large number of jobs in our area. The Tampa Bay Downs is such a generous supporter of community organizations. They should be allowed to operate on a level playing field in their industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEANIE LIBERTY
KANSAS CITY, MO 64155
Comments submitted: 10/28/2013 10:33:14 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

My family, and many of my friends visit the state of FL (and several other states) for relaxation and entertainment. We have adopted many retired racing greyhounds and the racetracks have become a large part of our entertainment at home and when we travel. I would be disgusted to see the state of FL do away with this for many reasons. The loss of jobs from the facilities and the companies that do business with these facilities would be far reaching. The loss of tax revenue to the State would have to be made up somewhere, and the citizens of FL would find it to be very costly, and in this economy that cannot be in the best interest of anyone. Please re-think this and vote to save gaming, including racetracks in FL--it's the RIGHT THING TO DO!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA BADORF
SELF-HORSE OWNER
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 10/28/2013 10:36:52 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

Unable to attend the meetings/workshops, I did want my opinion heard.
I believe that the VOTERS of Broward County voted to allow Casino's at existing facilities, for example jai-alai and race tracks, horse or dog. Not sure why any changes to this shouldn't be on the ballot other than GREED.
The horse racing industry employs THOUSANDS and if separating casino's and horse racing is allowed, those people will lose their jobs, not to mention that horse racing will become a thing of the past. If the gaming commission wants to make regulations, why don't they focus on trainers who use drugs, change the law so that there can be NIGHT racing even where there is a dog track, and give the existing casinos the same rights of play that the Seminole Tribe currently has.
But most of all--require that any alteration to what the VOTERS agreed to be decided by THE VOTERS of this state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOEE KAM
E GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49506
Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 12:14:28 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I would like to express my support for live Greyhound racing in the state of Florida. I know several owners, trainers and kennel owners in Florida and can tell you first hand that the dogs are loved and cared for and are not just for profit as others would suggest.
I believe everyone should be able to witness the truth for themselves and I urge those with questions to reach out to the industry professionals to get the answers they need.
My parents live in Florida five months out of the year and when I visit them, I also visit a track.
The Greyhound Racing industry is a vital component of the state's economy and should be allowed to continue to prosper.
Best regards,
Joe Kam

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESLEY EZKOVICH NEW ORLEANS, LA 70452
Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 12:44:01 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I am a racing owner and president/founder of an adoption group. Decoupling will have a detrimental affect on the entire state of FL, first being the number of people no longer employed then the dogs no longer racing. Those pushing to discontinue racing arent the ones hurt by this.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA NICHOLS INVERNESS, FL 34452
Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 10:56:49 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other)

I have had numerous greyhounds, and now that we live in Florida, I am able to go to Derby Lane, to Ebro, to Daytona, and other tracks and watch the dogs race. I have been in the kennels at the track, on greyhound farms, been IN kennels at the track giving greyhounds belly rubs and getting kisses. We have a number of friends who come in from other states and one thing they all insist on doing is going to the races. Our husbands play poker, we watch the races. I have heard the lies about the treatment of greyhounds by owners and breeders. Greyhounds love to run; it is an instinct with them I have watched families raise their greyhounds, the children eventually taking over the farms, working in the kennels, working at the track. I have stood along the rail watching children watching 'the doggies run', and these include my grandchildren. I have placed these dogs, who have been handled all of their lives into nursing homes, watching the become service dogs when they retire. They are this way because of the care and love they have received all of their lives.

My friends who come in travel around the state; they visit other places while they are here. They enjoy playing the slots, they enjoy going to the beaches. They love going to Homosassas Springs Wildlife Park, AND they love going to the races and to the casinos. These are the people who bring money in. If there are no dog tracks, they aren't going to come..

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA WHEELER MYSELF TIERRA VERDE, FL 33715
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 9:14:10 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I would like to see existing pari-mutuel locations (i.e., dog tracks) be permitted to add slot machines and other forms of gambling in their existing locations. Many Floridians have, for years and generations, supported their families through greyhound breeding and racing. In St Petersburg, we have a long time family that owns Derby Lane. If they were allowed to bring in slots, they could expand their operations and employ even more local people with little impact to the surrounding community. People are already going there to gamble, allow them to have more types of gambling. I am very much against bringing in Las Vegas style casinos to Florida when we have Florida family-owned companies who can develop similar projects on existing land and with existing facilities.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT CROSSLAND FLORIDA GREYHOUND ASSOCIATION OAK GROVE, MO 64075
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 11:46:15 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I'm against decoupling the greyhound racing in Florida. Please keep in mind the affects of employment that this have on peoples lives. Th tracks will keep their tax credits and law off Thousands i am against the law offs. It will also affect the lively hoods of Folks that live in other parts of the Country with employment also. Good hard working American's losing a job in this economy NOT good. I hope you will keep Live Greyhound Racing in Florida and keep people working.
Thanks Robert

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT CROSSLAND
FLORIDA GREYHOUND ASSOCIATION
OAK GROVE, MO 64075
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 11:48:45 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I just read on the internet where Animal Rights Groups HSUSA Humane Society if US & ASPCA of Florida along with GREY2K are asking for decoupling because if animal abuse and dog injury's not being reported. I don't get theses people they claim abuse and that we don't take care of our dogs. I would like to give a few examples us VS them.

Greyhound Industry adoption rate is well about 80%

ASPCA adoption rate is around 5%

Grey2k adoption none exist-ant they don't even try to adopt dogs out.

Hsusa Humane Society US pull in Million's of dollars off un suspecting older people with pity ads on TV. They take in million's and give back to local shelters 1% that doesn't help while they live the good life the animals suffer. HSUSA adoption rate is less than 5%

HSUSA kill rate is 95%

As a greyhound breeder and owner i make sure every dog i retire from a race track finds a home. I love theses dogs and can and will prove that they are taken care of 24 hours a day. Everything theses Animal Rights groups spew is lies and spin to ruin good peoples lively hoods.

I hope and pray u will take in account facts and not listen to radicals without listening to common since. How if we are so mean and nasty to the dogs do we expect them to preform 100% and make the most revenue possible. Make no since.

Thanks for your Time Robert Crossland

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL FORNUTO
FLORIDA GREYHOUND ASSOC.
AVON, IN 46123
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 12:25:32 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I own 4 retired greyhounds plus I have pre-adopted a dog that is still racing. I love greyhound racing! These dogs are loved and cared for by their trainers at the track. Do not fall for the lies about abuse. Go to the tracks and visit kennels, watch the races and talk to these people...get the facts for yourself. I am not saying everyone or every day is perfect but is any job, sport or life perfect? These people depend on racing to support their families. If not for racing and the life these dogs have the greyhounds WE ALL love would completely disappear. Retired racers are not the same as an AKC greyhound. Please do not do away with greyhound racing!!!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MIGUEL MELENDEZ
DAYTONA BEACH , FL 32114
Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 5:33:51 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

I have been an employee in the racino gaming industry for 12 years now. This employment has allowed me to put a daughter through college and prepare to send my son to college next while preparing for retirement. I relocated my family to the state of Florida in hopes of an expansion in the casino gaming industry, without a change in this industry I will have to look into relocation to another state that will allow me to support my family.

Thank you,

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CLAIRE SOMMERS NEW ORLEANS, LA 70122 | Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 9:22:45 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Racinos and pari-mutuels (Economic Impacts) | Position: For Information Only |
| I am writing expressly to request that Greyhound racing be kept live. I am Pro Greyhound racing. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CANDACE BECK LOS LUNAS, NM 87031 | Comments submitted: 11/3/2013 9:26:56 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

My husband and I came to love greyhounds and greyhound racing through adopting our first greyhound in 1997. We started our own adoption group in 2003, working closely with farms and kennels in Arizona. We saw first hand the loving care given to the racing greyhound by it's owners and trainers. We also saw the affects on the Arizona racing community and it's families when Phoenix Greyhound Park closed, as an adoption group we helped with the placement of the many greyhounds who could not move to a different track. I would not like to see this happen to the racing community in Florida and the many people who rely on racing for their livelihoods. It would also send a flood of greyhounds into the adoption community.

I know you will hear from the, so-called, greyhound advocacy organization Grey2k USA. Please keep in mind that this organization is a lobbying organization and they, in no way, do hands on greyhound adoption. Very little of the tens of thousands of dollars they bring in from a gullible public, who believe that they are "saving" greyhounds, go to help adoption groups. I would ask that, before you believe this organization, you take up the offers to visit a greyhound racing kennel and see for yourself.

While I do not live in Florida, I currently own a dog racing at Jacksonville. I do have a racing/owner license from the State of Florida and pay fees to the State of Florida. I do not want to see the loss of thousands of jobs and disruption to families that I saw in Arizona, happen to the good racing folks in Florida.

Respectfully,
Candace Beck
7 Jay Bird Loop
Los Lunas, New Mexico
505-573-6305

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CANDACE BECK
LOS LUNAS, NM 87031
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:57:37 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

After watching the Friday, Nov. 15th Racing Commission Workshop I felt the need to comment yet again. As I said in a previous comment I have run an greyhound adoption group since 2003 and I also co-own a racing greyhound who is currently racing at Orange Park, I am licensed by the State of Florida and pay a fee for that license.

As I watched I was particularly interested in the speakers who were promoting decoupling of live racing. Ms. Settle described the horrid conditions she found at Jefferson County Kennel Club, a track which is now closed. Ms. Settle did not tell you about the majority of racing kennels that are spotless with either shredded paper or carpet covering the floor of the crates. Ms. Settle would have you believe that the crates are tiny and the dogs spend 22 hours a day in urine soaked cages, if this is correct then I would wonder exactly when these racing greyhounds raced. Racing greyhounds are normally turned out 5 to 6 times a day, they are also sprinted and given a through "check-up" before they are to race. Common sense tells us that a abused and neglected dog will NOT race, so if you are depending on these dogs for your livelihood why would you mistreat your dogs.

Let's look at Ms. Settle's Grey2K USA. From 2006 - 2011 their IRS 990s show that this so called "greyhound welfare organization" brought in \$2,220,100.00 in donations. Expenses of \$2,201,000.00 were reported. The salaries paid to primarily Christine Dorchak and Cary Theil were \$599,402.00, 27.2%, of the revenue donated, \$585,866.00 26.6% went to lobbying, \$379,652.00, 17.2% was spent for Printing and Postage. Of this \$2,220,100.00 brought in from donations over the 6 year period only \$31,451.00, and average of \$5,242.00 per year or 1.4% was used to support adoption. I would argue that these are the people making money off the backs of the greyhounds.

Much was made of injury report by those supporting decoupling such as Ms. McFall from HSUS. The goal of racing is to stop the injuries before they happen by improving racing surfaces, using a breakaway lure and covering bus rail.

Considering the number of races run per year and the number of starts a greyhound would have the percent injured is less than 1%. As an example I co-own a female racer who raced at both Orange Park and Wheeling Island, she had over 120 starts and was never injured.

In closing, I would encourage you to visit the farms and kennels, who invited your inspection, so you might see the true sport of greyhound racing and the love that goes into caring for these amazing athletes. When you are considering the decoupling issue please keep in mind that neither Grey2k USA or HSUS have ever participated in placing greyhounds into adoptive homes, they have no plan for what would happen when the greyhounds in Florida no longer have a place to race. If they get their way, the racing greyhound would become extinct. We would no longer have the privilege of spending our lives with these amazing dogs. Please do not let that happen, you can help by making sure that live greyhound racing continues in the State of Florida.

Thank you for taking the time to read this comment.

Respectfully,
Candace Beck
7 Jay Bird Loop
Los Lunas, NM 87031
505-573-6305

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETH BARNHART
WESTLAND, MI 48186
Comments submitted: 11/3/2013 9:41:47 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other)

loss of the amazing retired greyhound would be a true loss to pet lovers. They are no pets that compare. Please DO NOT end racing! It will impact many people and their lives. Financially and emotionally,

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ALICIA GRIBBIN SHARON SPRINGS, NY 13459 | Comments submitted: 11/3/2013 4:31:51 PM |
| | | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other) | | |
| <p>I have worked in the greyhound racing world as both a leadout and kennel helper in two different kennels at two different tracks in Florida. Therefore, I know firsthand about this industry and its impact, and how losing it altogether would affect thousands of people. The majority, if not all, of the people working in this industry love the dogs and it is many times all they know. Losing racing would destroy their only livelihood. Also, I have owned two retired greyhounds so far, and from having grown up with dogs all my life, I can say without a doubt that these dogs are the most special, wonderful dogs that are in existence. To lose retired racing greyhounds would be a crime in itself because of how wonderful these dogs are. Plus, if racing was just abolished, there would be far too many dogs that would need to be put into adoption agencies all at once. There would not be enough room to hold them all. Surely, no one would want to put these dogs down, but where would they go??? Why would anyone want to put thousands of these animals without a place to go all at once, or harm the economy even more by putting thousands of people out of work in an already tough economy where jobs are very hard to come by? None of that would make any sense. I implore you to keep the dog racing in Florida going because on so many levels, it would have a very negative impact to completely abolish it.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ELAINE SUMMERHILL EDGEWOOD, NM 87015 | Comments submitted: 11/11/2013 11:09:52 AM |
| | | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Family and Social Impacts) | | |
| <p>Keep greyhound racing, a sport which employs many people: trainers, lead outs, parimutuel clerks, electricians, vets, dog food salesmen, etc. The ripple effect on jobs & the families destroyed by job losses would be devastating.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CALVIN HOLLAND PRESIDENT TBGA ST PETERSBURG, FL 33716 | Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 12:42:20 PM |
| | | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels | | |
| <p>I am for expansion as long as it is regulated & the purses for greyhound racing kennels get a fair percentage of the take at the racino and there is NO DECOUPLING. People like greyhound racing and the people of Pinellas County voted for greyhound racing. Everyone can profit from expanded gaming if it is done fairly and equitably for all.</p> | | |

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

KATHERINE CAMPBELL
THE GREYHOUNDS
HUMMELSTOWN, PA 17036

Comments submitted:
11/20/2013 9:46:17 AM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Economic Impacts)

For Information Only

Greyhounds, trainers, owners, reputable breeders, leadouts at the tracks, farm owners, and yes, even adopters are being attacked by an organization (Grey2K) who is lobbying AGAINST the above. As a retired racing greyhound adopter for more than 10 years, I have learned a tremendous amount of GOOD that this industry is now doing for the greyhounds and the sport. These dogs love what they do, and they are loved and cared for extremely well in most all circumstances - I have been a witness! I have personally visited a race kennel in Jacksonville (while a visitor to Florida) and these dogs are truly loved, and the dogs love their caretakers. THIS is where these athletes are "groomed" to be the most excellent pets that they eventually become when they retire.

I urge you to PLEASE visit a race kennel personally. Some of you know kennel owners....please take them up on their offer of a tour. Make it a group event with your colleagues. You would definitely enjoy it, and it would "get you out of the office for a day" !!! It would also show you that Grey2K is wrong in their accusations.

I love my retired racing greyhounds. I would not even want to imagine my life without them in it. Please vote to protect these precious athletes, their owners/trainers and the sport that we all love.

Because - what you decide in Florida will affect millions of other people who are not even Floridians. Please decide "FOR" the greyhounds. Thank you for considering my comments.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

SHEILA KENNEY
PENSACOLA, FL 32514

Comments submitted:
11/20/2013 3:47:53 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

For Expansion of Gaming

I'm all for the expansion of gaming in the States Pari Mutuel facilities only. I feel it would create jobs that our State so desperately needs. I don't feel it would increase crime as others have argued in the past. If the State allows it at the Pari Mutuel facilities only they still basically have control on how things are handled not to mention the tax revenue they would receive. To me it's a win win situation. Living in Pensacola I hate seeing all the money that Biloxi generates from Floridians when we should be reaping those benefits. People are going to find a way to gamble so let's keep it in Florida.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

JENNIFER NG
COLUMBIA, SC 29223

Comments submitted:
11/20/2013 11:48:26 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other)

Neither For nor Against

Having watched the public workshop in Jacksonville on 11/15, I feel the need to address some of the commentary made about greyhound racing. I am a veterinarian in Columbia, SC who is active in greyhound adoptions. As the co-owner of a greyhound who has been racing at Orange Park in Jacksonville, I also have a pari-mutual wagering license from the state of Florida.

I realize that the scope of these proposals is huge, and the socioeconomic factors likely take priority. However, if concern over the welfare of greyhounds is playing a role in your views on the decoupling proposal, I would encourage you to look beyond the emotional propaganda put forth by animal rights groups like Grey2K and HSUS, and discover the truth behind the life of a racing greyhound.

There were several animal rights advocates who claimed to be speaking on behalf of those who could not speak for themselves - the greyhounds. But based on their comments, these people are often far removed from the daily care of the dogs and have little first hand experience with the realities of greyhound racing in the U.S. today.

Rather, who better to speak for the greyhounds than the people who work with them on a daily basis? Several individuals in that capacity also spoke at the workshop - greyhound trainers, kennel and farm owners - and I would urge you to consider that the perspective they bring is much more realistic than that brought by the so-called 'advocates' from Grey2K USA and the HSUS. Grey2K USA board member Ms. Charmaine Settle's description of the poor conditions in the Jefferson County track kennels is a moot point because the racing industry took it upon themselves to boycott the track and force it's closure earlier this year.

Anyone who knows dogs know that they are happiest when they have a job to do. Racing greyhounds are working dogs and professional athletes who are performing the function for which they were bred. Spending time around these racing dogs quickly reveals how happy and content they are in the kennels, and how excited they are on days they get to race. Greyhounds probably have more fulfilled lives than many housepets who sit in homes with nothing to do while their owners work all day.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

JENNIFER NG
COLUMBIA, SC 29223

Comments submitted:
11/20/2013 11:53:42 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other)

Neither For nor Against

A couple additional thoughts regarding the stigma of greyhound racing.

As a vet, I had a hard time listening to the sad story shared by Ms. Dottie Boone from Jacksonville at the 11/15 workshop about the truckload of greyhounds being taken to a veterinary clinic to be euthanized. While that may have happened a few decades ago, there is no reason for this to happen today, and I am not aware of any mass euthanasias being carried out in recent years. The adoption kennel at Orange Park in Jacksonville is known today as one of the best in the country, and I highly doubt that the account, if true, happened anytime recently.

I noticed that Ms. Boone did not share the date of when this event supposedly happened, nor the name of the vet and clinic. Listening to the account, it was also a bit unclear as to whether this was something Ms. Boone witnessed herself, which you'd assume based on the level of detail provided. But if she was there in person, why did she have to ask a friend to approach the vet to ask how she could help? If this event happened within the last couple years, then the vet is as much to blame for telling the rescuer "not to bother". There are more than enough resources and adoption groups all over the country ready and willing to take in needy greyhounds today.

I am in support of injury reporting, although I do believe the data needs to be kept in perspective and not misused as the animal rights groups have a tendency to do. The data is clear from the states that have required injury reports.

Injuries are not "common" as Ms. Kate McFall of the HSUS claims, but rather a very low percentage of the number of races run. In both MA and IA the statistics show the rate of injuries to be around 0.2% of greyhound runs.

One final word, public perception of greyhound racing may be negative, but this is a direct result of the propaganda that has been spread through the media by these animal rights organizations who are now spearheading the effort to end greyhound racing in Florida. Public petitions and signatures are not reflective of the actual state of racing, but rather, of the biased and misinformed views of this industry due to widespread media campaigns by well-funded, extremist groups.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

STEVEN WILDMAN
ASPCA
CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33071

Comments submitted:
11/22/2013 8:58:20 PM

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Other)

State draws heat for allowing dog and horse tracks to ignore rules

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS HERALD/TIMES TALLAHASSEE BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE -- Florida's regulation of dog racing is so lax that a Sarasota greyhound track was allowed to start its racing season last week in defiance of a state rule that bans the use of unsanitary and dangerous wooden crates.

The fact that the Florida Division of Parimutuel Wagering spent two years adopting a rule that banned the crates, and then allowed the track to get away with thumbing its nose at the ban, is just one of several examples of the state's weak regulatory structure, said Michael Diamond of Spectrum Gaming, a gaming consulting company hired by Florida lawmakers to complete a report on gambling in Florida.

"In all our years of covering regulatory agencies, I can't quite fathom a regulatory agency allowing this to occur," he told the House Select Committee on Gaming Wednesday.

The report by the New Jersey-based gaming company was commissioned by the Legislature at a cost of \$400,000 as a precursor to a debate next session on whether to strengthen the state's regulatory structure and gambling in Florida. The Division of Parimutuel Wagering said it is in the midst of an investigation into the Sarasota Kennel Club and could not comment. Diamond said it is only one in a string of recent examples in which the governor's agency has ignored rules, failed to regulate or changed rules without following the proper procedures.

According to the Spectrum report:

- The Pompano Park harness track overstated its purses by 30 percent in its report to the state last year, and regulators told the Herald/Times Wednesday it has no authority to do anything about it.
- Horse and dog tracks consistently understate their revenues from simulcasts, resulting in millions in unaccounted for and unregulated wagering. Gulfstream Racetrack in Hallandale Beach, for example, reported \$102 million in simulcast and intertrack wagering in 2012 but failed to report another \$605 million, the report said. Regulators said that since these wagers are not taxable, it doesn't regulate them.
- The failure to regulate costs taxpayers money. Although the division is supposed to be self-sufficient, making up in fines and fees what it spends in oversight, lawyers and investigations, Spectrum found that the net cost to taxpayers to regulate dogs is \$4 million.

Diamond said he spent six months looking at the agency and concluded the regulation is "inadequate" in part because of the way the state laws are structured and in part because of the agency's reluctance to enforce the laws.

But if the lax oversight by the governor's agency was news to legislators, it didn't seem to matter. The reaction from the committee to Diamond's report was silence.

When pressed after the meeting by a reporter, Committee Chairman Rep. Robert Schenck, R-Spring Hill, said the examples are evidence "why we're taking a look at it comprehensively and why we're talking about regulatory structure."

What will he do about the department ignoring the dog crates rule now? Schenck hesitated, then said: "I'm going to talk to the agency."

Meanwhile, animal rights advocates are not happy.

"The track should not be given a special favor," said Carey Theil of Grey2k, the advocacy group opposed to dog racing that persuaded the Division of Parimutuel Wagering to adopt the rule. "If these rules are not enforced in this case, it's going to send a message that these rules mean nothing."

The Sarasota Kennel Club is the only dog track in the state that continues to use the wooden crates, while every other track in Florida uses metal crates, Theil said.

"Wood is a haven for ticks. It absorbs urine and it's a perfect environment for bacteria to grow," he said.

But Gary Rutledge, a lobbyist for the Sarasota Kennel Club, petitioned the department on the day that track was set to open its racing season, and asked for a waiver from the rule until July of next year.

He said that even though the rules were in development for a long time, "Sarasota was not aware that change was being made or they would have raised and objected to it."

He called Diamond's suggestion that the agency is allowing the industry to ignore the rule "ludicrous." The track is

willing to replace the crates, has attempted to purchase metal ones, but the enormous expense is too much to endure now, he said, especially since legislators may allow the dog track to end live racing and continue to operate as a poker room.

"We've been trying to work with all the affected parties to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion as expeditiously as possible," he said.

The division could impose a fine or suspend or revoke its license or permits, Rutledge said. It has instead called for comments to be submitted over the next two weeks.

Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/11/06/3736141/state-draws-heat-for-allowing.html#storylink=cpy>

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DR. LISA GUNTHER
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33020

Comments submitted:
12/5/2013 9:03:35 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels

Against Expansion of Gaming

PLEASE "I hope that legislature is passed in the state of Florida that puts and end once and for all to Greyhound racing and similar activities. At this time and age it is unconceivable that dogs are kept for the sole purpose of human profit. They are forced to live in small kennels, exercised just for the purpose of training for the races, and euthanized in case of injuries, which are often treatable and would allow the dog to live a long life as a loved pet, but are considered too costly for a dog that would not be able to race and produce profits. A very small percentage are put up for adoption programs, never as puppies, thus denying the dogs the right to be pets and to enjoy the love and company of a human family from a young age. I sincerely hope the Florida legislature puts aside the so called "tradition" of racing and gives freedom to Greyhounds once and for all from exploitation. They are wonderful pets, they do not deserve life imprisonment for the sake of the profits a small group of people. Make Florida an example of humanity and care of those weak creatures in the territory."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GARY JAMESON
NORTH BEACH, MD 20714

Comments submitted:
12/6/2013 4:11:35 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Economic Impacts)

For Information Only

I have been a visitor (tourist) to Florida for over 30 years. Lately because of my involvement in greyhound adoption, I have been coming to Florida only for greyhound racing. I am a supporter of greyhound racing and the tracks. Greyhound racing provides numerous jobs and also remains a tourist attraction. The racing industry has gone to commendable lengths to safeguard greyhound health and welfare, and I remain a strong advocate for the continuation of racing in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT LIENESCH
SELF
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

Comments submitted:
12/6/2013 4:56:47 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Racinos and pari-mutuels (Gambling and Crime)

For Expansion of Gaming

The voters of Lee County voted to allow slots at the Bonita track; the voters have spoken and it should be permitted.

07—Cardrooms

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID STURGIS PANAMA CITY, FL 32405 Comments submitted: 10/13/2013 11:28:57 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms Position: For Expansion of Gaming

The gaming rooms at the Florida dog tracks need competition. They currently have none and have taken advantage of that situation. Their house drop at the poker table is \$5 per hand (10% of pots up to \$50) and a 2\$ jackpot drop. This amounts to \$7 per dealt hand. They give the players no comps.

The casinos in Biloxi have a \$4 house drop and a \$1 jackpot drop. They also comp you free beverages, free food and a reduced hotel rate. We need competition to make gaming work in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELENA EULO PALM HARBOR, FL 34685 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:13:43 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms (Other) Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I consider that card-playing has long been part of American culture. Poker, in particular, is a game of skill and not a gambling activity. If we are a free culture, then we are by definition at liberty to determine our own occupations and hobbies. If wagering is not a crime for horse and/or dog-racing or for tribal businesses inside of a state, then poker is even less illegal. Moreover, if other states in these United States are allowed to play poker, then this same right should be extended to all Americans. It is interesting that people who scream for rights in other areas are so intent on condemning this particular right that other people want so very much.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELENA EULO PALM HARBOR, FL 34685 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 9:58:37 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I hear many people talking about freedom. They demand the freedom to do things they enjoy or believe in. But when it comes to other people's freedom, they suddenly become very judgmental. I would like to see gaming, especially poker, an activity I enjoy, be expanded, as it is over most of the world.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUGLAS THOMAS KISSIMMEE, FL 34741 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:05:04 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Don't let online gaming come to Florida. Internet Poker is one large scam. Build more brick and mortar casinos!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHLEEN JENNINGS-VECCHIONE WINTER HAVEN, FL 33881 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:52:21 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I want both online and onshore gaming and cardrooms. I cannot attend these meetings, so I am putting my comments here to be noted and hopefully looked at by legislation.

Thank you,
Kathleen "Kat" Jennings-Vecchione

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARVIN BAUMHOR
ALL POKER PLAYERS
DEERFIELD BEACH, FL 33442
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 5:29:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms
I have been playing poker for many years. why are poker rooms always trying to get rules for them selves. the vig they are getting is so out of line in the area of 10 to over20 percent.regulate the vig for the players. not to help the casinos.more poker rooms mean more money for the house.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUCIO PENA
N/A
MORRISTON, FL 32668
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 10:34:17 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms (Destination Casino Resorts)
I'M not a gambler I just enjoy the table games and of course POKER!.I'M older now and is getting too much hassle to travel to air ports and fly to different distinations. I would like to see more gaming parlors in CENTRAL Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREW LIAS
BOCA RATON, FL 33433
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 12:28:11 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms
would like to see expansion of gaming in s.fl. - think the pros outweigh the cons. btw I do vote

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STUART FEARER
TAMARAC, FL 33319
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 1:08:42 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Cardrooms
Please move to expand casino gaming and on line poker in Florida.

08—Online poker

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MATTHEW HARRISON TAMPA, FL 33647 Comments submitted: 10/15/2013 3:55:08 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Destination Casino Resorts) For Expansion of Gaming

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident from the city of Tampa and I support an expansion of gambling for the sunshine state. More specifically, I encourage lawmakers to advance a bill enabling online poker in the state. Other states like Nevada and New Jersey have passed bills that regulate online poker in their respective states and this is be a huge revenue gain for them. If we were to do the same here in Florida, we would benefit greatly with revenue from taxes as well as online licensing. Given the much larger population of Florida but and the large pro-gambling citizens residing in this great state, the state stands to make an enormous sum of money from this. I thank you for your time and really do hope you consider taking up a measure that allows for Online Poker to be apart of the sunshine state. Poker is a game of skill and Florida citizens deserve to play such a game online while the state reaps the revenues, as well. Thanks again and I welcome any questions you may have for me. I can be reached at xcmatt79@aol.com

Good day,
Matthew

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEVEN DARGENIO PORT ST LUCIE, FL 34986 Comments submitted: 10/15/2013 8:46:16 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other) For Expansion of Gaming

Online poker has been approved on the state level in Nevada and New Jersey already. With many adjoining states in the process of approving also. Tax revenue from online poker is projected to be a large dollar amount of revenue for each of these States. It is imperative that Florida not be left out in the cold when all of these states start sharing player pools (sort of like mega lotto).

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEREK E. BROWN SPRING HILL, FL 34607 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:19:06 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other) For Expansion of Gaming

Regulation of online poker for all Florida residents!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HENRY POLETTA MELBOURNE, FL 32940 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:22:24 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other) For Expansion of Gaming

I would like Florida to allow online (internet) poker and join with other states or the federal Govt to widen the audience. This will open up a new stream of tax revenue for our state.

I would also like to see a racino allowed in Melbourne FL with both slots and table games. Today people go on the gambling cruise where no revenue is received by local or state government. Once again a racino will bring new revenue and jobs to Melbourne.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GLENN BULLARD
N/A
PARRISH, FL 34219
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:07:25 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Cardrooms)

I am a 100% disabled veteran. It is very difficult to go to casino or nearby racing cardroom to play poker.
Please find a way to regulate and allow online poker. I enjoy playing and would like to be able to do so from my home.
I also think it should be taxed to help fund schooling in the state.
I would be glad to provide additional input as this issue is debated.
Respectfully,
Glenn Bullard

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN GOSS
NONE
KEY WEST, FL 33040
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:24:24 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

I am 69 years old and in a few years will be unable to drive. My hobby is poker and I have played it all my life. I think Florida, with all the protections similar to Nevada, should allow Internet poker to people who are physically in Florida. I also think that Florida should team up with other states (such as Nevada) to increase the participation in this hobby. I am against any type of gambling on the Internet (such as slots or sports betting) since I think poker is a game of skill while other betting activities is not a skill.
Having casinos that allow poker will not do me any good since a casino can not be supported by the small population of Key West, so my only recourse would be to drive 3 hours each way minimum to enjoy a game of poker. At my age, this is not realistic.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RENE GARCIA
BOCA RATON, FL 33433
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 7:14:20 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)

I am requesting the approval of regulated internet poker.
I have the right to play if I wish to do so and the state should not be able to deny it.
It's ridiculous that millions of dollars in revenue are denied and instead had been going overseas to unscrupulous operators when that revenue would have stayed here.
OPEN UP INTERNET POKER AGAIN. IT'S OUR RIGHT!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEO FALLON
TAMPA, FL 33604
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 8:08:11 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

I feel that an adult should be able to play online poker in the comfort and safety of their own home. Also the revenue this would generate for the state couldn't hurt in this day and age.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode: ELLEN FINCH
MYSELF
DELAND, FL 32720

Comments submitted:
10/21/2013 8:27:37 PM

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

I love the way you tilt the topic section.

First of all I would like to say anyone who is against gambling in the State should lobby to stop the lottery, otherwise they aren't truly against gambling. I know people that spend hundreds of dollars a week on lottery tickets.

I believe that everyone has a right to live their life as they choose.

I enjoy playing poker online and in person. I like to go to a casino or racetrack occasionally. If you run these places properly, they offer jobs and bring income to the area.

If people become problem gamblers that would happen anyway with other forms of gambling, ie. the lottery.

I think Florida should allow more casino's and poker rooms, also online poker playing. Thank you!

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode: CRAIG EDWARDS
KISSIMMEE, FL 34744

Comments submitted:
10/21/2013 8:47:08 PM

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)

I am specifically in favor of online poker. A huge revenue source for to government to allow people to compete in a game of skill in the privacy of their own homes. It should NEVER have been obstructed by our government. This needs to be rectified. If the states need to do let's get to it. There are HUGE revenues to be earned for the government, and proper government oversight would guarantee players get a fair shake. It is criminal NOT TO RE-OPEN ONLINE POKER FOR AMERICANS... Please get to it... TY

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

CRAIG EDWARDS
KISSIMMEE, FL 34744

Comments submitted:
11/14/2013 11:54:09 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

My interest here is specifically ONLINE POKER. Due to rash, underhanded, and bullying style politics, a bill was passed at the federal level that destroyed online poker in the USA. For me, gaming is a separate issue because poker is a game of skill, and in this regard gaming laws simply should not apply. There have been rulings in court to this fact and it is apparent that although there is significant luck in the short run, just like in many contests (all sports and even games like backgammon or chess, all where tournaments with prize money is allowed and professionals earn a living)that poker is a game of skill and should be treated as such by our laws. Amazingly, in spite of sports books being illegal in most areas, fantasy football seems to be accepted as a game of skill yet poker somehow has not, and is considered gambling, at least on a legal level. I'd like to seem these politicians take on Phil Ivey and company for a reasonable amount of time and see if they disagree.

Furthermore... the financial boon for licensing and regulation online poker is HUGE and the Federal government has dropped the ball. So the states should pick up this ball and then quickly for a strong interstate system so we can have a huge player base to return online poker in the USA to what it was. A large player base grows the game due to the constant "action" available. I would hope we would also allow foreign players into our games to further generate income for the states as well as create even a larger player base for the consumers.

To be honest I am so disappointed with the taking away of my freedoms in this regard as well as the willingness to waste government funds cracking down on an industry that was welcoming the opportunity to be taxed regulated and licensed. This waste of money and effort is further compounded by the reality that allowing online poker would have generated billions of dollars in government revenues BILLIONS. I hate to be so cynical, but this is insane. There are exactly zero good arguments, yes zero for not allowing online poker. All the reasons for blocking this activity such as to protect/prevent minors and players from financial ruin don't wash. The safeguards that can be put in place will be better than for any live gaming that is allowed in this country, and for many other things for that matter.

So please, get real and quit being so absurd. Instead of denying an activity that millions of Americans want to enjoying, help make the game is safe and fair, and generate income the government sorely needs. This will also generate new American jobs as the sites will now be American owned and operated....Please get it done and quit wasting time! I'd like to play...

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

VIRGINIA FERGUSON
RETIRED NON PROFIT EXEC. DIR.
COCOA, FL 32926

Comments submitted:
10/22/2013 12:05:48 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

We are now retired and we don't go out much anymore. We love to play poker online and we have an opportunity to win back some money for playing. Why not regulate and take a tax out of the winnings? It would increase revenues and allow us to play with what we have earned working all our lives. We want freedom to have a little fun in our old age.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

NELSON JENNINGS
SARASOTA, FL 34243

Comments submitted:
10/22/2013 7:36:14 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

I fully support regulated internet gambling for poker in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BEN RICHARDSON YULEE, FL 32097 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:01:06 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

Online Poker is what I want to see come back. I can't afford to play at the stake levels offered by brick and mortar casinos. In the past, I could play in tournaments for 25 cents and enjoy hours of good competition from around the world from the comfort and privacy of my own home. The games move much faster and you can play at more than one table at a time. The House cut is lower online too. A better deal for the players than a casino.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER DAVID HIALEAH, FL 33014 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 10:15:40 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

I am a 71 Year old woman.I love poker.The best games are at night I have left the poker room as late as 3am.I played on line before they took it away.I signed up for wpt it cost me \$20.00 a month and got alot time in the safety of my own home but the state took that away.People have played the game forever . please let Florida have internet gaming

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOSEPH MCLAUGHLIN SAN ANTONIO, FL 33576 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:09:37 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

I enjoy playing on line poker and the opportunity to compete for a prize (in my case a complimentary seat at the World Series of Poker). I play on purepoker website which offers free gaming with advertisements which I am willing to indure. A few months back the site stopped offering this game; they informed me that The State of Florida prohibits it now. My question to you is WHY? Who is being hurt by this? Please give me back my freedom to do this.
Thank You
Joe McLaughlin

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL DEMORAN VENICE, FL 34293 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:49:15 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Cardrooms)

Please support legalizing and regulating online poker in Florida. This is a multi-million dollar industry that could bring immense revenues and jobs to Florida. Several states have already allowed online poker and more are expected to join them in the near future. Poker is a game of skill that many Americans enjoy. A well-regulated online environment will help prevent problem gaming in the state.
I also wanted to say that I support the decoupling of cardrooms from greyhound/horse tracks as licensed parimutuels. There is no reason why consumers should be forced to go to race tracks, which involve animal exploitation and suffering, in order to play a game of skill that does not involve harming animals. Moreover, if a company wants to divert more capital and resources to its cardrooms and either reduce or eliminate racing, there is no reason why it should be barred from doing so as it sees fit to increase its profits. Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN RENKE
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 5:47:13 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)
We are almost the only western country in the world that is not free to play on line poker. Even Russia can play. If you truly believe in freedom and capitalism, not to mention the tax revenue and jobs that would be generated, you would allow on line poker in florida. You would be surprised at the number of people that would support your actions

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANK SPAULDING
JACKSONVILLE , FL 32226
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 6:10:13 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Cardrooms)
Online poker would be a nice sport to get added. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RONALD LARSEN
SELF
SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL 32459
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 10:27:07 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Family and Social Impacts)
I enjoyed playing on-line poker before the US Justice department shut it down. I only played for small stakes that I could easily afford.
I want to be able to legally play on-line poker.
I also enjoy going to casinos and travel to Biloxi and Las Vegas periodically. I would like to see casinos closer to home.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOEY GRASSO
POKER PLAYERS
AVE MARIA, FL 34142
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 3:17:22 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)
Online gaming is the way of the future. Both for poker players and Florida's economy. The Seminole tribe is on the path to exceed a 1 billion profit sharing agreement with the state of Florida over a 5 year period. Could you imagine the potential if Florida was to move to an online format with reciprocating agreements with other states?
I live about 5 miles away from the Immokalee Hardrock but I rarely go because the the buy in for the least expensive tournament is \$50. So I would be limited to one game per week on my budget. The problem is I don't go. Playing one game of poker per week doesn't thrill me. An online format would fix that. I could enjoy tournaments with stakes I can afford much like Poker Stars and Full Tilt use to offer.
The five year \$1 Billion profit sharing agreement is an excellent accomplishment for both the State and the casino but think about all those players you're currently not reaching. All the revenue that is currently lost. Think about the 1000's of other players like myself who want to play from the safety and security of their own home.
Respectfully,
Joey Grasso

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEFF GAMAGE
RESIDENTIAL
VALRICO, FL 33594
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 10:12:54 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)
We go to Vegas or Atlantic City to play poker on a regular basis, mostly due to the limited games here. We are lucky to be near the Seminole Hard Rock, but our real preference is online Poker as we have two small children and can't get away as often as we like. We would love for our money to benefit local casino's and the local economy, but until there is availability in FL, our money is being spent elsewhere.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROSA GONZALEZ MIAMI, FL 33145
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 3:43:24 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

I think it is very hypocritical of the Florida Senate to even ban online poker even as a "club". First we have the right to do with our money as we wish and furthermore, they continue to allow more and more scratch off games costing as much as \$25. In fact, I have observed many, many people who are receiving food stamps and other government "handout", spending an absurd amount of money buying scratch off tickets. I find that to be highly hypocritical because that can't be traced back to those who abuse the system. Why care?? the State is making lots of money and I surely don't mean the money that goes to education, but the millions of dollars paid to employees etc to be able to conduct the, not only scratch off tickets but lotteries as well. Again, as if we didn't have enough "lotteries" in the State of Florida, it keeps expanding by adding even more lottery games. Again, these are people who are in welfare which are the ones lured to buying tickets in the hope of going from rags to riches, yet the State doesn't allow people like me to pay say \$20 to get in a poker tournament?? Heck, when you register at poker sites, you have to give all your information included, but not limited to credit cards. And this is wrong??? where you can track on line gambling whereas you don't know and can't stop those poor people from spending hundreds of dollars buying lotteries or scratch off games?? I guess this IS, in fact, the definition of hypocrisy.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHERINE GARDNER PORT ORANGE, FL 32127
Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 9:09:24 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

internet gaming. I want to play on poker stars and others without the permission of government.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHERINE GARDNER PORT ORANGE, FL 32127
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 11:20:19 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

allowing online gaming and allowing me to use Pokerstars and other online sites. The government of Florida has no right to decide where my discretionary money is spent.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EDWARD COOMBS PPA ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33710
Comments submitted: 10/26/2013 4:15:09 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Cardrooms)

•Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker. This would be good for online poker players and good for the casinos. Online poker often has low and micro stakes tournaments, (\$1 and up)where players can learn to play without having to drop \$80+ to play a tournament @ a casino. Many online players advance their skills and cash out some of their winnings to play live @ casinos. (and yes poker is a game of odds, starting hand decisions, and good reads on your opponents, where the skilled succeed.)

Both would be good for the economy, employing people and generating new taxes

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILL HOLDER
POKER PLAYERS ALLIANCE MEMBER AS SELF
YULEE, FL 32097
Comments submitted: 10/27/2013 4:57:50 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)

As a Disabled U. S. Marine Viet Nam Combat Veteran, I was able to play a game of skill from HOME (so I would not have to deal with the ordeals of traveling). For just a few dollars (\$1, \$2, or \$5 cost to join a tournament) I had hours of entertainment, working my skills from home over the internet. I played with thousands of others. Many were disabled. I play well and have finished in the money often winning many tournaments. My small investment paid off well. My best payout in a \$2 tournament was just shy of \$1,500.00. Please, consider allowing us to participate in this pleasurable pastime again. Tax it and pay some bills. This is a gold mine for both of us. WIN - WIN. Do it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CINDY ALLEN
GAINESVILLE, FL 32607
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 3:59:43 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts)

I support expanded gaming, particularly poker, and particularly online. Did you know we are pretty much the only developed or developing country IN THE WORLD that doesn't permit online poker? Online poker would result on fewer cars on the road and no one would have to breathe casino smoke. More casinos would mean shorter driving distances for those who like a cardroom experience.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN BANU
DAVIE, FL 33324
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 5:05:37 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Family and Social Impacts)

By regulating the on-line gaming the fraud will be minimized
With on-line access to play, the need to leave the house will be reduced. The amount of money to play will be much less to enjoy playing for fun and socialy.
Plus will be some economical advantages for the states

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLES GUNTERMANN
FORT MCCOY, FL 32134
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 5:23:38 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other)

I have social anxiety disorder and borderline agorophobic, so I won't be visiting any casinos or poker rooms. But I played online real money poker for a couple years ,before they stopped it, and I really enjoyed it and look forward to being able to play again in the future.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NIKKI SCAFA
SARASOTA, FL 34235
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 6:10:21 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Internet Cafes or Adult Arcades)

Hello. Besides the selected option, internet poker should be regulated and legal like other activities(alcohol, smoking, etc.). The elderly are retired and have little interest in everyday activities, they represent a large portion of the gambling community. It is ridiculous that other countries allow this activity without question while we put a red flag on it. Aren't there more pressing needs right now in this country that are of more a dire concern then people's free time activities(economy, Obamacare, mortgage refinancing, etc.). Give people what they want!
Mr. Nikki Scafa

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRIS USTI 1966 LABELLE, FL 33935
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 7:22:57 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Gambling and Crime) For Expansion of Gaming
um, hello ... FREE COUNTRY? let us play poker, be social and play online!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BAIN HODGSON CAPE CORAL, FL 33993
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 10:15:51 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Gambling and Crime) For Expansion of Gaming
Poker should be allowed online and in land based casinos. It is a game of skill and not of chance.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TOM ROBERTSON NONE ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 12:24:20 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts) For Expansion of Gaming
Florida really needs to legalize online poker, so they can get a serious cash flow, as long as there is a connection with the other states. It's a potential multi-Billion \$ industry. Also, Big tax \$\$ for the expansion of casino gaming. Why let the boats off shore get all that \$\$? The Indians shouldn't have a monopoly on that Cash Cow!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEREMY MINER VENICE, FL 34292
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 8:11:14 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts) For Expansion of Gaming
I'm a police officer and enjoyed playing online poker. I could play from home
And never have to worry. Playing online poker should be our right as Americans. Tax it and reap the benefits.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLIFFORD JOHNSON N/A VENICE, FL 34285
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 8:39:30 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other) For Expansion of Gaming
Gaming should be expanded because of the positive economic impact. Also, with the States that are licensing and overseeing Internet poker Florida should approve Internet poker and allow them to join into compacts with all States where the State has approved Internet poker.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RANDALL LONGHOUSE ORLANDO, FL 32820
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 11:54:11 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts) For Expansion of Gaming
Please do not prevent free Americans from making recreational choices. Adults should be free to make entertainment choices without others' morals being interjected. Please support internet gaming options for free Floridians. It is laughable to promote state lottery games with minimal payouts but block skill games such as poker. Let free adults choose.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | PAM CASTEEL POKER PLAYERS ALLIANCE ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701 | Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 12:02:30 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
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As a member of Poker Players Alliance I would like to express my views. I used to belong to a local poker League which was recently shut down by the State of Florida. Our League used to bring a lot of business to the local clubs and restaurants that were struggling. They started an online venue and then I find that although this is free Poker, people in the State of Florida are excluded, though it does not seem to be a problem for most other States in the Nation. I see businesses like Dog Racing and Jai Ali, throughout the State. There are turkey raffles, Bingo, silent auctions, and these are not considered gambling? Seems a bit of a double standard here

I feel our Democratic rights are again being revoked by a State that seems to want to make our decisions for us. I feel that every person has the right to spend their hard earned money in a way that they see fit. If we want to participate in a game of Skill for money we should have the right to do so. Perhaps from your standpoint you have concerns that Poker can cause addiction problems. However so does alcohol and it is still legal. At least poker doesn't cause car accidents. Perhaps you have concerns about crime. I believe that outlawing poker is more likely to bring about criminal impacts because there will be a lot more unregulated "basement" games and people trying to skirt the law under the current circumstances.

In Tampa, a free Poker League that brought revenue into local businesses that sponsored games, was raided by police, guns drawn, in an almost SWAT team fashion, treating local citizens like crime lords over a free poker game! No money is being exchanged. These Leagues are not making huge financial profits. Most of the venues sponsoring the games do so to help bring in more clientele to their struggling business. It is a win/win situation. Yet these people were treated like big time criminals. I would think the local police would have better things to do.

Poker players come from all walks of life and are usually intelligent people who are skilled at the game because of their acute math and reasoning skills as well as a knack for psychology. Many are Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Managers, and other people who benefit our communities. We are not some low life scumbags which is how we are being treated.

I myself have been trying to assist my husband in researching jobs in other States. Texas is looking better all the time. I am a very skilled poker player whom feels that my democratic rights have been violated. I want to live in a State that allows me the right to play in an Online Free Poker League that can give me the opportunity to win my way into the World Series of Poker which I could otherwise never afford. I miss playing with my online acquaintances in a challenging game that I love because the State has dictated to me that I am not allowed. I feel like a small child having his wrists slapped. I hope Florida will reconsider these laws as we as individual citizens should have the democratic right to make our own choices.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | BRIAN HASTINGS FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316 | Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 5:52:34 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
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Allowing new casinos would boost local economies, create jobs, and create additional tax revenue. Allowing Florida gaming operators to offer online poker would further compound this effect. Allowing gaming operators to compact with other states that have legalized and regulated online poker would be healthiest for the online poker economy since player pools would be combined. I strongly believe that I should have the freedom to be able to play online poker in my home.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOSHUA HILLOCK COCONUT CREEK, FL 33073 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 7:17:47 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Gambling and Crime)

The model of freedom is that which it stands for. Freedom. Freedom to do as we choose, freedom to spend our money the way we see fit, and to not grant that freedom is unconstitutional and unamerican. Online poker/gambling and online everything for that matter is the future. Any state not embracing this will simply be left behind. Online gambling, is not only our right as an American, but an economic boost to our state. It is the best of both worlds, and an obvious step toward our future.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RICHARD ALWARD WINTER HAVEN, FL 33880 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 4:49:23 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Cardrooms)

I believe that we can benefit from the online cardrooms such as Nevada, New Jersey, and Delaware are undoubtedly going to. The aforementioned states are even trying to pool their liquidity in order to raise the received contributions towards the states themselves. This option could bring in a lot of revenue for the state to be put towards education, law enforcement, and keeping our roadways maintained.

I am also aware that the state is receiving a lot of revenue already from allowing gaming expansion of the Seminole Tribe's casinos. I am sure that they would love a chance to receive more money not only for themselves, but also the state of Florida.

The big issue is- How to keep the patrons safe. I saw internet safety on the ballot already for the next vote in January, so that could lay down the groundwork for this endeavor.

There have even been numerous accusations that doing something such as allowing online gambling(through cards or other sports betting) could lead to more people becoming addicted, or even losing all of their money. This would, in my opinion happen either way. I personally know that there are many options available to the public such as gamblers anonymous, and the 1-888-admit-it line.

To anyone that reads this, I thank you for your time, and I hope that you consider at least addressing this at the next Florida Senate meeting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHEN MOSS WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33543 Comments submitted: 11/16/2013 12:08:15 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Cardrooms)

I truly believe that adding new casinos to Florida will help the economy of local cities as well as of the state as a whole. Florida is a major tourist destination and having government-run casinos will provide the state with a surplus of cash that all can use. Being a public school teacher, I have seen the effects of the economic shortfall all too much, and I think that this is a win-win solution for both citizens and the government in our great state.

These casinos should be allowed to operate their own cardrooms as well. I am an advocate and huge fan of poker, and since this has been legally proven to be more of a game of skill than luck, allowing casinos to run their own cardrooms only makes sense.

Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker. This is an even easier way for the state to make money by regulating poker where there is no charge to employees, overhead, etc. by simply allowing players to play online in their own homes.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARC WOLFE MIAMI, FL 33136 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 2:10:42 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Cardrooms) Position: For Expansion of Gaming

This should be such an obvious issue. The freedom of adults to do what they wish with their money should be primary. This is especially so in the case of someone sitting in their home on their computers. Other states are well into the process of creating on line poker networks: Instead of being at the forefront of this, Florida risks being left behind. The revenue available from internet or brick and mortar gaming is too great to ignore, particularly when residents are consistently losing important services due to an alleged lack of funds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALLEN JAMES PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33954 Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 9:46:07 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Other) Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I am strongly in favor of allowing online poker sites to operate legally in the United States

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EDDIE GOLDSTEIN KEY WEST, FL 33040 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:32:20 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Online poker (Economic Impacts) Position: For Expansion of Gaming

In these difficult economic times for Florida, there is a significant amount of tax dollars to be collected by regulating Internet Poker in our state. Poker has been proven over and over to be a game of skill, rather than a game of chance like the State Lottery that preys on too many of our citizens. Further, government regulation of Internet Poker will help protect players. Other states have begun to realize that this lucrative endeavor is not only in their best financial interest, but given the cross section of the population seeking the right to play this game online rather than in a casino... it's in their political interest as well.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this matter and please consider the economic, political and civil rights reasons for regulation of Internet Poker in Florida.

09—Compulsive gambling

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SUSAN GOLDSTEIN, DPL NONE WESTON, FL 33332 | Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 11:51:13 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Compulsive gambling | |

I used to be of the opinion that people should be able to do what they wanted with their own money in their leisure time. I even sponsored an industry expansion bill when I served in the legislature. Now almost 10 years later, have seen the damage that has been done to families and to people that I know as a result of gambling in Florida. Having become somewhat of a regular patron, as many people who bring their elderly parents to casinos are, I believe something should be done to stop the "pushing" of gambling through constant mailings of free play \$ and gift incentives. This is particularly troublesome because of expiration dates, which ignite the compulsion in those who have an addiction problem. This constant bombardment of 'use it or lose it' offers is akin to a dope pusher pushing drugs. Gambling addiction is no different than someone addicted to drugs. And the luring of patrons to constantly come back has been so well designed and orchestrated to keep them there for hours and hours before a final announcement is made of the 'grand prize winner'. In addition, technology has provided an opportunity for them to maintain a continual flow of texts and emails with constant offers and reminders. If these type promotions are permitted, then there should be some daily limit to accessibility of funds. I believe the expansion of gambling is very bad for our families and communities, particularly when free booze is affecting a person's judgement. We should limit gambling to existing facilities and enforce stricter laws that should be put in place for all gambling establishments, including the Indians, to maintain safe limits and to identify those who become addicted by monitoring compulsive players and offering them help, not more credit or incentives. By that I mean if someone is losing thousands of dollars on slot machines, instead of giving them more money and more credit lines, offer them a meal and time away from the machines to reflect on how much they have lost. Current laws allow casino hosts and credit managers to act in the same capacity as a bartender giving a person more and more drinks, knowing full well that he is totally inebriated.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN GOLDSTEIN
WESTON, FL 33332

Comments submitted:
10/24/2013 11:37:47 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Comments for Senate Gambling Public Hearing. Speaking in opposition.

My name is Susan Goldstein, I am from Weston, Florida and I am a professional lobbyist. However, today I am not here representing a principal or anyone else in that capacity. I am here as a concerned citizen. I used to be of the opinion that people should be able to do what they wanted with their own money in their leisure time. As a former legislator who served on the House Business Regulation Committee, I was the prime sponsor of an industry expansion bill after the ballot initiative to allow Las Vegas style slot machines passed. It was the companion bill to Senator Geller's bill. Now almost 10 years later, sadly I have seen the damage that has been done to many families, friends and to people that I know as a result of gambling in Florida. Having become somewhat of a regular patron, as many people who bring their elderly parents to casinos are, I am very concerned because I truly believe it has hurt our families and communities. Creating jobs at the expense of destroying families is not good public policy.

In fact, I believe that we must strengthen regulations and that something should be done to stop the "pushing" of gambling through constant mailings of free play dollars and gift incentives, especially to our vulnerable seniors. This is particularly troublesome because of expiration dates on these offers, which only ignite the compulsion in those who have an addiction problem. This constant bombardment of 'use it or lose it' offers is akin to a dope pusher pushing drugs. Gambling addiction is no different than someone addicted to drugs. The constant luring of patrons to get them back into the casinos has been so well designed, and orchestrated to keep them there for hours and hours before a final announcement is made of the 'grand prize winner'. In addition, technology has provided multiple opportunities for them to maintain a continual flow of texts and emails, with constant offers and reminders. If these type promotions are permitted, then there should be some daily limit to accessibility of funds. I believe the expansion of gambling is very bad for our families and communities, particularly when free alcohol is provided and affecting a person's judgment. We should limit gambling to existing facilities and enforce stricter laws that should be put in place for all gambling establishments, including the Indians, to maintain safe limits and to identify those who become addicted by monitoring compulsive players and offering them help, not more credit or incentives. By that I mean if someone is losing thousands of dollars on slot machines, instead of giving them more money and offering extended credit lines, offer them a meal and time away from the machines to reflect on how much they have lost. Current laws allow casino hosts and credit managers to act in the same capacity as a bartender giving a person more and more drinks, knowing full well that they are totally inebriated. Please vote against the expansion. It is not good for our families, our communities or the State of Florida.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

ARNIE WEXLER
ARNIE WEXLER
LSAKE WORTH, FL 33463

Comments submitted:
10/15/2013 11:32:06 AM

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling

Statement by Arnie Wexler CCGC 10/23/13

6420 BRIDGEPORT LA

LAKE WORTH FL

33463

561 2490922

I would like to thank the Committee for extending an invitation for me to address you on the subject of compulsive gambling.

My name is Arnie Wexler and I have been the President of Arnie and Sheila Wexler Associates since 1994. We do training's, educational seminars, consultations, evaluations and treatment services for, and about compulsive gambling Internationally. We have trained over 40,000 casino workers on gambling addiction. I am a recovering compulsive gambler and placed my last bet on April 10, 1968 and know what kind of destruction compulsive gambling can do to the compulsive gambler, their family and everyone else they come in contact with. I think it is important to state that I am not a prohibitionist. My only objective is to help compulsive gamblers and their families.

I have been involved in trying to raise public awareness on this issue for over 45 years. In 1972 I became a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council on Compulsive Gambling. I served in this capacity until 1991. From 1986-94. I was the Executive Director of the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey. From 1982 I have run 2 national help lines for gamblers I believe that I have spoken to more compulsive gamblers than anyone else in America during the last 45 years.

45 years ago I was in what is referred to as the Desperation Phase of Compulsive Gambling. I was 30 years old, married with 2 children. I was in debt for the amount of three times my annual salary. I owed two finance companies, three banks, loan sharks and bookmakers and family, friends and co- workers for a total of thirty-two people. I had just written a check to a stock brokerage firm for \$4400.00 (to purchase stocks) and all I had was \$10 in my account. I thought about suicide on a daily basis, but never had enough guts to carry it out.

I was a plant manager for a Fortune 500 company, supervising 300+ people and committing illegal acts to support my gambling addiction. Even in this phase I came to work every day in a suit and tie since my addiction was not visible to the untrained eye.

My experience is not unique. Most compulsive gamblers have similar tales to tell. They have lost relationships, careers, and educational pursuits. Their obsession to gamble is all encompassing and they are unable to think about anything else in life, even though they may still appear to be functioning normally. Most of their waking hours are spent in trying to find the money with which to place another bet. Many at this stage of their addiction are committing illegal acts to support their gambling. A large percentage of embezzlements and white collar crimes are caused by compulsive gamblers. It is not unusual to see major corporations being ripped off by their employees who need money to gamble. This especially effects brokerage firms, banks and insurance companies and lawyers who dip into their trust funds. The American Psychiatric Association recognizes a diagnosis of Pathological Gambling since 1980. Dr. Bob Custer (the founder of compulsive gambling treatment) once described compulsive gamblers in the Desperation Phase as people who had lost all hope, were severely depressed, felt helpless and alone. It is at this stage that many gamblers feel that the only way out is suicide.

As my wife and I have traveled the country we have met thousands of people who were brought to their knees as the result of compulsive gambling. Some had lost their family farms and businesses in places like North Dakota and Minnesota. Others talked about embezzlements or white collar crimes by employees who had a gambling problem. In Mississippi, we heard about suicides and bank robberies that were occurring from the time that legalized gambling began in their state. There is a woman in Louisiana who killed her parents in order to collect insurance money so she could continue playing video poker. I remember the call from a 14 year old girl, who was selling drugs in order to support her gambling addiction, and the 19 year old who was selling her body. I remember working with a major league baseball player who made \$800,000 and couldn't pay a gambling debt of \$25,000. There is an ex Quarterback who played in the NFL, who is now incarcerated because of writing bad checks in order to support his gambling addiction. I

know of many cases of people who are in federal prison because of a gambling addiction.

In April of 1997, in Bridge City, Louisiana, a young woman who was baby-sitting a 2 year old boy, left him locked in her van while she played video poker. When she returned to her van after several hours, the boy was comatose and was rushed to a hospital. He died the next day. In August of 1997, I heard about a Sgt. in the US Army, from Hunter Army Airfield, in Savannah, Georgia, who left her 10 week old infant in the car while she played video poker for 7 and 1/2 hours straight. The baby was found dead.

There is a man on death row in New Jersey because he contracted to have his wife killed in order to collect on her 1.5 million dollar life insurance. At the time he was in debt due to gambling.

I recently came across one of the most horrifying stories I had ever read. It was about a 19 year old college student from New York, who couldn't cope with a gambling debt of \$6000 (betting on the world series). He purchased a toy gun and led police on a car chase. When approached he pulled his toy gun and was killed by the unsuspecting police officer. He left suicide notes to his family and to the policeman.

The classic case of a suicide is the case of a Somerset County Prosecutor in NJ who embezzled money for gambling from his partners in a business venture and was to be sentenced for his crime when he fled the state of New Jersey. He ended up in a Nevada hotel where he shot himself to death.

In my opinion, even one suicide due to compulsive gambling is too many. I have personally known more than a dozen compulsive gamblers who have resorted to suicide and know many more who have attempted suicide. Statistics may be low in assessing suicides in gambling towns due to the fact that many people return to their hometowns before committing the act.

Compulsive gambling is cutting across all segments of society, today in America. I have spoken in many colleges over the years and found a very large percentage of students are gambling both legally, and illegally. More than 10% already have a gambling problem. I've dealt with many students and student athletes who have had a gambling problem, including relatives who paid off large amounts of gambling debts. There has been a tremendous rise in the numbers of young people seeking help in the last few years due to gambling addiction to poker.

I think it would be very educational for every one to read the three part series in Sports Illustrated on "The Campus Gambling Epidemic", dated April 3, 10 and 17th of 1995.

Senior citizens are another segment of the population who are reporting a considerable increase in problem gambling. There are countless sad stories about people in this age group becoming addicted to various forms of gambling in their golden years.

Female gamblers are coming out of the woodwork, reporting a compulsive gambling problem. There are more female compulsive gamblers seeking help, today, than ever before in the history of this country. In the last 4 years I testified for 3 women in Florida who have got put into jail for gambling addiction from 5 years to 17 years. Just two weeks ago in Ft Lauderdale court I testified for a lady addicted to gambling.

This country is exploding with a major compulsive gambling epidemic. There are more active compulsive gamblers in this country today, than ever before in our history. State Legislators are constantly adding more legalized gambling opportunities without even addressing those constituents who are, or will become, compulsive gamblers. States are spending millions to advertise and promote lotteries. You see TV ads where a Governor holds up lottery tickets and tells the citizens of their state to buy lottery tickets in order to help the state. Can you imagine the uproar if a Governor went on TV and held up a bottle of alcohol telling the citizens to buy alcohol because the state makes money from the sale? For years people were going to jail for running illegal numbers in the streets and today the states are running the same type of operations except it is now legal because the state gets a percentage of the money.

How many times have you been in a convenience store and watched a parent rub off lottery tickets in front of their young child? What kind of message are we sending our youth? Are we telling them that they don't need to pursue an education, but rather aspire to winning the lottery?

For years I've heard State Legislators and Lottery Commissioners deny that compulsive gamblers have problems with playing the lottery. Lotteries are enticing people to buy lottery tickets. It's very easy for a youngster to purchase a lottery ticket today as they are even sold in vending machines. It might be easier than buying a can of beer or a pack of cigarettes.

If the states really cared about their citizens they would cap the prize at \$1 million, so more people could win. However, they like the big jackpots because they know that people tend to spend more than they intended to in order to win them. I've heard from many lottery players, over the years, who have embezzled money to finance their lottery

gambling.

Although compulsive gamblers are known to gamble on almost any form of gambling, many prefer casino type gambling because it is fast action. I have serious concerns about underage gambling, how free drinks are handled and policies regarding markers and credit. When casinos offer "comps" to a compulsive gambler they fuel their fantasy and sometimes push the compulsive gambler over the edge.

The wall street journal 10/11/13 stated that "Some casinos get 90% of their revenue from 10% of their customers" We know that the % of casino workers are at greater risk for compulsive gambling problems. even greater then the general public

When it comes to a discussion about treatment for compulsive gambling, it is a sad fact that there is so little available throughout this country. Gamblers Anonymous and Gamanon have offered much help to compulsive gamblers and their family.

In recent years (due to the availability of gambling activities) many new chapters of GA and Gamanon have started. Before casino came to nj in 1978 there were 15 meetings of gamblers anonymous with in 4 years that # was over 50 meetings

There are many gamblers and family members who require the additional services of professional counselors. We trained the staff at Sierra Tucson, in Tucson Arizona, Care Florida and Recovery Road to add compulsive gambling treatment to their existing services. We continue to act as consultants to them in the area of compulsive gambling treatment. Most of the available facilities are private, and unfortunately most insurance companies do not cover treatment for compulsive gambling. Obviously when most gamblers are ready and/or willing to go to treatment, they have run out of finances(and so have most of their family members) that would afford them this needed help.

Many compulsive gamblers go undiagnosed. In a study done by UMDNJ (University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey) it was found that 22-26% of those patients being admitted to an out - patient mental health setting also had a compulsive gambling problem.

I see the gambling industry, today, where the cigarette industry was ten years ago. People in this country are beginning to recognize that there are some negative consequences to the gambling that has proliferated across America.

We now know that the existence of compulsive gambling is not just fiction, but fact. We may not know the exact numbers of people afflicted with this problem, but we know that it is millions of Americans. I think the time has come for the gambling industry and state legislators to take their heads out of the sand and address these crucial issues that affect peoples' live.

Very few people in this country speak for, or about, compulsive gambling issues. Part of the problem is there is still shame and embarrassment even from recovering compulsive gamblers, and they lack resources to carry the message about this problem.

The time has come for elected officials in this country to stop ignoring compulsive gambling issues, as this is an issue that effects millions of Americans and their families. As a nation, we need to deal with it in the same manner as we deal with alcoholism and drug addiction.

BEFORE VOTING ON EXPANSION EVERY SENATOR SHOULD ATTEND A GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS MEETING 1st

I hope that what I have said will help you to better understand the seriousness of the problem of compulsive gambling.

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SOME SUGGESTIONS

That any state, company or individual operating a gambling related business should be mandated to have a Responsible Gaming Policy and staff trainings on it.

It is not sufficient, however, to have a policy written exclusively from within the company. It should be necessary to have input from qualified persons who have the expertise on the subject of compulsive gambling and to use this expertise to develop a legitimate responsible gambling program.

That anyone who works in the gaming field must have the education on the subject of compulsive gambling.

All gambling advertisements include a hot line number (such as 888-LAST BET).

Insurance companies should be mandated to pay for treatment of compulsive gambling.

All gaming companies should pay for compulsive gambling treatment for their employees and family members.

Any state or municipality that receives revenue from gambling should be required to put a percentage of that revenue in a fund that would pay for treatment services, education, awareness and prevention regarding compulsive gambling.

Health professionals should have training on the subject of compulsive gambling.

Any new or expanded gaming legislation should include a component to deal with compulsive gambling issues. Anyone incarcerated for a crime related to compulsive gambling issues should receive education and treatment, while incarcerated. Gamblers Anonymous meetings should be made available.

THANK YOU ARNIE WEXLER

WWW.ASWEXLER.COM

ASWEXLER@AOL.COM

<http://aswexler.com/blog/>

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

DOUG LYNN
NORTH LAUDERDALE, FL 33068

Comments submitted:
10/20/2013 1:20:47 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

You are just going to increase the compulsive gamblers additions, and take in money easy money for the state. Its just wrong.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | VICTOR NUNEZ N/A MIAMI, FL 33145 | Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:14:54 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Compulsive gambling | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

I am an avid Poker player, so as much as I personally treat the game responsibly I know that many use the game as a vehicle to gamble. At one point I myself was gambling compulsively, my father and I were consistently making trips to local casinos and spending disproportionate amounts of money on gaming slots, table games, and even some of my Poker activity in that time. Fortunately I self-excluded myself from my main casino of choice (Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino) for a period of 1-year. That year was challenging even after the initial exclusion. I resorted to buying \$5, \$10, & \$20 scratch tickets right after the exclusion. Not long after that though somehow by the grace of God and the common sense that my mom and dad knocked into me I was finally able to let go of it.

A year later, perhaps even a year and a few months I thought I was responsible enough to go back. I didn't intend to play slot machines, what I intended to do was play Poker once in a while on occasion. I decided at some point to start tracking my Poker results (difficult to recall the timeline). Suffice it to say I have reached a point where I am now tracking my Poker results and my discipline, bankroll management, and continued persistence to stay away from the elusiveness of the slot machines have given me deliverance from problem gambling. Poker in itself may be used as a vehicle to gamble by some, but I treat it as a game with limits, strategy, variance, and other variables to consider. I treat the game with respect. Money is won and money is lost, but at the end of the day I have accountability. What I take in my pocket to a Poker room is money that I have decided I would like to put at risk, and money that I can essentially afford to lose on any given day. Overall though I can see that I have shown a consistent profit over my last 544.5 hrs of play. It's only \$4/hr so it's not cost effective compared to employment, but it makes me happy that I have made a hobby of mine marginally profitable. It's something that I enjoy, I haven't decided to attempt to make a career out of it or anything along those lines.

I suppose my whole point comes down to the danger of gambling to locales. I once thought it would be pretty sweet for South Florida to become like "a Las Vegas with beaches", now I am not sure I agree with that position anymore. When people sit at a Poker table, they're saying here is my money. I am matching my wits against yours in a game that has a skill element at play. You've got decisions to make, and nobody is forcing you to sit at that table. You can get up and walk away at any point in time. While some may abuse that aspect of the game, they could have just as easily blown that money buying scratch offs or any other number of "State endorsed" methods of gambling. Under the slogan of benefiting education, you've got a scenario where the people who can least afford it ultimately spend the most money to try to "strike it rich". Much the same with slot machines. A small amount such as a \$1.40 bet can make you something close to \$1,000 if you get lucky enough. I know because I have been there and I won that kind of score with that kind of sum when I was down to something like \$40 in my pocket. The allure is that you can make a quick buck with a little bit of money.

I am not sure a "Las Vegas with beaches" is the direction that Miami should go. It sounds alluring on the onset, but when it comes down to it what would we really achieve? Granted we already have many options to gamble, but I think we've got enough. How many of these places can be sustained, and how many do we really have a desire to sustain? It's like a bunch of sheep hypnotized by fancy machines coming in and going out with disappointed faces. I was one of those faces for a significant chunk of time, my dad was one of those faces. Not only that but I was constantly asking my father if we could spend more, or grab more money to feed this bottomless pit. It was a gross situation, and I don't wish that situation on anybody. Much less someone who cannot work themselves or dig themselves out of that hole.

Long story short, it took a toll on my father and on me. I have been redeemed by God's grace and I believe that I have reached a point where I can treat Poker at brick & mortar cardrooms with respect. I stay away from slots to the extent that I don't have free accumulated play to use on them or receive some sort of promotion. It's a novelty if I throw in even \$1 on my way out as if it was some sort of lottery ticket. It would probably be a net benefit to the communities that we live in if more people were like that.

With that said I realize that the cardrooms I appreciate are mostly operating as a byproduct of the slots, table games, and horse racing that occur on the outskirts. For the space a cardroom holds you can have a bank of slot machines easily making more money than any number of Poker tables. That's unfortunate. When push comes to shove, I will invite friends over to my house and ask them if they want to play for small buy-ins.

Just throwing my opinion in the hat, but for what it is worth I am against the expansion of gambling because of my past experience with compulsive gambling. I desire to continue to stay away from slots and table games like a plague personally. I still highly respect individual decision making and autonomy. I realize that different individuals have different attitudes and perspectives on whether or not they have a desire to gamble and to what amount they believe they can handle it and so forth. I feel compelled to be a good steward of the resources that God has placed in my hands, and I don't think gambling at -EV games like Slot machines, Blackjack, and any other table game is worthwhile for me. Each person has to gauge the entertainment level and whether it is worth it for them and their own budgeting on such hobbies.

I think the local economy might be indirectly harmed by casinos as well. Money that could have benefited local businesses, small or large, is basically being siphoned by these entities. It may or may not be as big of an impact as I infer, but it's a thought worth considering.

Happy to just play cards,

- Victor Nunez

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JIMMY WILDS PANAMA CITY, FL 32405 Comments submitted: 11/6/2013 11:51:55 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I am strongly opposed to the expansion of gaming in our state. I have seen first hand the devastation compulsive gambling can bring to families. The family budget is consumed leaving nothing to feed the children. Any taxation benefits from additional gaming would be off set by the additional burden of caring for the indigent.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUGLAS ADKINS DAYSPRING VILLAGE FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034 Comments submitted: 11/16/2013 9:53:15 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I am opposed to the expansion of gaming due to the negative effect it has on adults with serious mental illnesses. It is well established fact that adults with mental illness who are dependent on SSI are vulnerable to addictions and expanding gaming creates a new powerful addiction that drains dollars from the adults with serious mental illnesses and results in increased violence associated with the lack of funds for stable housing and supports. Please oppose the expansion of gaming in Florida

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOANNE VEZINA BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:59:09 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Gaming in general is just another way of taking money from unfortunate people that cannot afford to throw it away on Gambling.

Governments are contributing to the addition of this sport, I think it is disgusting!

More disgusting is keeping Dog Racing alive in Florida, Stop Racing Dogs.

It Is Unfair, Cruel, and is a lack of consideration and conscience regarding the

Well being if these exploited Dogs.

Change the laws and close them down Florida, stop being known as the abusive State regarding animal rights!!

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

ALBERT HAINES
MC INTOSH, FL 32664

Comments submitted:
11/20/2013 7:09:49 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Gambling can be very addictive and can ruin family's. The dogs that race are living in very small crates and when the get hurt they are dumped.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

RODRIGO ZAPICO
P.E.T.A
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

Comments submitted:
11/20/2013 4:07:38 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Compulsive gambling

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

please make thinks right, and vote against.

10—Animal welfare or decoupling

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | KENNETH PELTON SELF HOLLYWOOD, FL 33026 | Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 9:38:24 AM Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | |

I want the senate gaming committee to include greyhound decoupling in the final gambling bill.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

RICHARD CIAMPA
SALEM, MA 01970

Comments submitted:
10/11/2013 10:28:37 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Position:
For Information Only

Hi,

I would not be for decoupling. If that is done you would have simulcast betting parlors at many of the tracks. If that is what happens then what stops me from opening up a simulcast parlor.

I know you may legislate against it, but if someone took you to court would you win? The ex track is nothing more than a building with simulcasting rights and in a lawsuit there is a possibility the state would lose.

The groups opposed to greyhound dog racing are not really opposed to racing nor injures, they are opposed to gambling.

Grey2K board member emeritus Dr. Jill Hopfenbeck owns Whippets that lure course. Lure coursing run on a hard hilly surface is much more dangerous than racing on a manicured track.

Here is one example of what happens during lure coursing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDmBmZy2Qm4>

Grey2K will tell you they banned greyhound racing in Massachusetts, but that is a lie. What they banned was pari mutuel gambling on racing. So Massachusetts could run races at Raynham tomorrow and simulcast them and there is nothing Grey2K could do about it, nor is there anything they want to do about it.

If they were trying to protect the dogs, as they claim, wouldn't they have banned any kind of racing? Lure coursing, flyball.

Is it possible that dogs don't get hurt in races that have no betting on them? We both know the answer to that.

The underlying theme to Grey2K isn't safety it is gambling. Carey Theil, founding member of Grey2K, sits on the Board of Directors of the anti gambling group Stop Predatory Gambling. Grey2K Board of Director Tom Grey is a senior advisor to Stop Predatory Gambling.

That is not a strange coincidence, that is the whole reason behind Grey2K.

If you ask Carey Theil if he has a position on gambling he will twist the answer and say Grey2K has no position on gambling. He will always go from your question of Carey to Grey2K.

I am for adopting out every dog and only putting a dog down if the vet thinks it is what is best.

Again you have to watch out what you do if you make this a law like in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts had a 100% adoption rate for all adoptable dogs. Grey2K said the rate was 31%.

How did they come up with 31%? As the tracks closed for the season dogs that were 2, 2 1/2 and 3 years old were sent to other tracks to race. I don't know anyone except Grey2K that would adopt out a young dog that you paid a few thousand dollars for.

However, they counted those dogs as not adopted out so they manipulated the numbers to show 31%.

Cruelty, I don't know anyone that is for cruelty to animals. Now Grey2K talks about the industry being cruel, but in the 13 years they have existed how many times have they turned in a kennel of farm for cruelty?

The NGA has banned a number of people over the years for life for conditions that were not acceptable. So why has Grey2K never stepped up to the plate?

To hold any industry to 100% perfection is not only unrealistic, but it is setting them up to fail.

The Ronnie Williams situation at Ebro was horrible. However, Mr. Williams was turned in by people at the track not Grey2K. Mr. Williams was arrested, convicted and sent to jail. The justice system worked.

However, Grey2K tries to portray this situation as the norm in the industry. They show the pictures of the dead and starving dogs and use them to mislead the people.

If that is what happened in the kennels then there would be no dogs to adopt.

I think letting the tracks cut a certain number of cards from their yearly schedule is okay as long as it doesn't compromise racing.

I think if the tracks and racing people sat down and came up with a plan that is fair to both sides it would be a win win solution.

Solution by extinction is not a solution. Only radicals see that as a solution.

Thank You

Dick Ciampa

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JODI CHEMES ST PETERSBURG, FL 33702 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:15:01 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Neither For nor Against

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I strongly support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Thank you in advance for your compassion.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JODI CHEMES JODI CHEMES ST PETERSBURG, FL 33702 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:30:49 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

Hello,

I would like to express my support for de-coupling of the live racing and gambling law. I think that forcing casinos to have live racing goes against everything a free market economy is supposed to be about. If live racing is profitable and the casinos choose to keep it then that should be their choice. It should not be mandated that racing exist in order to have a casino.

Thank you for your time.

Jodi Chemes

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: REBECCA MUZYCHKA FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:16:23 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANICE SPENCER DELAND , FL 32724 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:18:38 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Position: For Information Only

Please work toward decoupling Greyhound racing from gambling quotas. This is the first step and the LEAST we can do to help these beautiful, gentle and helpless animals. Thank you. Janice

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIC LANER JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:21:24 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Position: Neither For nor Against

My comments are not in opposition to gambling (I'm a libertarian on such issues), but rather the coupling of mandatory greyhound racing at the tracks offering other forms as well.

The racing is a loss maker for the state, costing more to regulate than the revenue received. More importantly, it is cruel to the greyhounds, who's injuries go unreported, and who are swept aside once their racing careers are over. This is why there's a dedicated rescue group, solely for abandoned racing dogs. This is disgusting behavior in a civilized society. Since the greyhounds can't write you or vote, I am in their stead. They need our help, much as the manatees also need our protection.

Please support "decoupling" and mandatory injury reporting.

Thank-you for reading this.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY BEAN PALM BAY, FL 32907 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:21:38 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I am asking our Florida lawmakers to pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement! I am also calling on lawmakers to require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives! Not requiring reporting of any and all injuries is simply inhumane, and these innocent animals deserve our help and support. Thank you for doing the right thing, and helping the greyhounds with your legislative actions.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: S LOGAN GREY2K MIAMI, FL 33131 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:24:44 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: S LOGAN GREY2K MIAMI, FL 33131 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:47 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
 - You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
 - Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
- Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages in Florida.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SCOTT LOGAN GREY2K USA MIAMI, FL 33131 | Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:44:26 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Greyhound racing is a dying industry, and now exists in only seven states. A majority (12 of 21) of all operational greyhound tracks in the United States are in Florida. In the state, the amount gambled at dog tracks declined by 72% between 1990 and 2013.

Public opposition to greyhound racing is increasing due to humane concerns such as confinement and injuries. At Florida tracks, thousands of greyhounds are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, in small cages barely large enough for the dogs to stand up or turn around. Additionally, since 2004 state investigators have documented at least nine cases of severe neglect at Florida dog tracks and associated kennel compounds.

The mandatory racing requirement forces greyhound tracks to offer live greyhound racing as a "loss leader" for other, more viable forms of gambling. This comes at a significant cost to both taxpayers and track operators, and conflicts with free market principles.

Decoupling is not about whether greyhound racing should or should not be legal in Florida, but whether the state should force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another. This legislation does not expand gambling in any way.

Since 1990 the amount of taxes collected by the state for live greyhound racing has declined by 98% from more than \$75 million in 1990 to less than \$2 million in 2012. In the same year, the state spent \$1.88 million on the regulation of live dog racing. Because regulatory costs now exceed the tax revenue from live racing, Florida is losing money on greyhound races.

Greyhound injuries are currently being reported to the public in most states with active dog tracks. Florida is now one of only two states, along with Alabama, that do not publicly report injuries.

This law will save greyhound lives. In the states where greyhound injury reporting laws have been approved, the number of greyhounds euthanized has significantly declined. For example, in Massachusetts the number of dogs euthanized declined by 43% in the first year after lawmakers passed an injury reporting bill. By the sixth year, the number of greyhounds euthanized had declined by 88%.

Greyhound injury reporting has had absolutely no fiscal impact in the states where it has been approved, and will have no fiscal impact in Florida.

Some greyhound injury data has been made public through state investigations, and these records suggest a serious problem. For example, twenty-eight greyhounds suffered "substantial" injuries and ten greyhounds were euthanized at Ebro Greyhound Park in the six-week period between May 21, 2011 and July 5, 2011.

This law will increase transparency. It will dispel false information about the greyhound racing industry and allow the public to have accurate information about dog racing in the state.

This law is simple and easy to implement. Greyhound injury reports would be completed by trainers and provided on site to state regulators.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | HARRIET MARTINEZ AVON PARK, FL 33825 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:25:37 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: For Information Only |

the use of animals for monetary gain for humans is inexcusable! leave the gambling at the casino tables where it's safe. safe for animals, no injury no death, people can continue to gamble.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETH HAMILTON NAPLES, FL 34104 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:28:29 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please vote in favor of Greyhound Track decoupling for the welfare of the greyhounds.
Also, please vote to have Florida join all the other states that are required to report greyhound injuries.
Thank you,
Beth Hamilton

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETH HAMILTON NAPLES, FL 34104 Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 6:11:25 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I am in favor of greyhound decoupling and reporting of greyhound injuries.
Please do the right thing for these dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETH HAMILTON NAPLES, FL 34104 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:35:05 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please stop the sad picture of greyhounds running around a track with no one watching.
DECOUPLE NOW.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VIVIANE NEVES PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33029 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:29:09 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Dear Committee,
I'm writing to you because humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.
Please, approve this law so we can have a more humane state and we can be proud of Florida.
Thank you,
Viviane Neves

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RAMONA BLANKINSHIP LAKELAND, FL 33813 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:30:39 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I am requesting that you vote to require greyhound tracks to report the injuries of the dogs that race there, and for the passage of decoupling which I hope will ultimately lead to dog tracks phasing out the very cruel and inhumane practice of racing dogs.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA ALI GREY HOUND RESCUE VALRICO, FL 33594
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:31:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

That the humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and that I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

These amazing Greyhounds are the most gentle, loving and caring dogs who are kept in small cages when not racing. They gnaw on their cage which cause bad to their teeth and feed high protein meal that cause stomach problems. Their weight is control so that they can run that much faster. You can see their ribs !! Our first Retire Greyhound was Zorro a beautiful Brindle so used to being in his cage that grass was new to him and so was tile. This amazing dog would steal my stuff animals because he ever had toys while racing. We also feed him, loved him and gave him so much loving that he acted like a puppy. His ribs no longer showed when he pants. Then we adopted Ace a wonderful loving white brindle that is funny and barks like a seal. Our loving gentle giant Zorro passed away this April from bone cancer he fought hard and we where holding him while he pass over the rainbow. Still think his sweet face will come when is favorite treat is served icecream every Sunday. Please stop the horrible treatment to these amazing gentle loving Greyhounds !! Just meet them at a rescue center I promise you will fall in love with them . Thank you for reading my letterMaria Flores Ali owner of five rescue dogs

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENISE ANDERSON SARASOTA, FL 34243
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:33:52 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I SUPPORT Greyhound decoupling & injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENISE ANDERSON SILVERBACK PEACE GROUP SARASOTA, FL 34243
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 3:12:10 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please pass the Greyhound decoupling act. I DO NOT WANT GREYHOUND RACING...IT IS INHUMANE & NOT ETHICAL!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEANNE YOUNG ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:36:25 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am interested in protecting the dogs in the gaming industry. Reporting injuries seem to increase the likelihood of better treatment of these beautiful dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PRISCILLA TRAVIS TALLAHASSEE, FL 32305
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:37:07 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

PLEASE STOP THE GREYHOUND DOG ABUSE! USE YOUR POWER AS OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO STOP THE CRUELTIES!!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CHERYL HUREWITZ GREY2K TAMPA, FL 44609 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:49:15 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| I CARE ABOUT GREYHOUNDS, SO I SUPPORT GREYHOUND DECOUPLING AND INJURY REPORTING. I HOPE YOU WILL DO THE SAME | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DENNIS HALL FORT PIERCE, FL 34949 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:49:22 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. In fact, just get rid of this cruel corporate welfare completely. Get rid of dog racing altogether! Dennis | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CYNTHIA SCIONTI TAMPA, FL 33624 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:49:37 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Please end gaming where greyhounds race. They are abused and usually get no veterinary care. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CYNTHIA SCIONTI NONE TAMPA, FL 33624 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:06 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Please shut down greyhound racing in Florida. The greyhounds are mistreated and don't deserve it. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MEGAN NEAL BRANDON, FL 33511 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:49:45 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| I am writing to help protect the Greyhounds in Florida. I am in support of Greyhound Decoupling and Greyhound Injury Reporting. The humane treatment of these gentle dogs is very important to me. I am the proud owner of a retired Greyhound who means the world to me. When we adopted him he was covered in scars and was very timid. We need more people to understand how horribly these animals are treated. Hopefully there will be an end to Greyhound racing all together in the near future. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DOLORES FAHRNEY GREYHOUNDS SUMMERFIELD, FL 34491 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:51:15 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| I STRONGLY SUPPORT GREYHOUND DECOUPLING AND REPORTING ALL GREYHOUND INJURIES. PLEASE VOTE TO DECOUPLE GREYHOUND RACING AND REPORT ALL GREYHOUND INJURIES. | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARB SLESSMAN
NPR, FL 34653
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:53:15 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
The animals do not want to do this.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA PHILLIPS
GREY2K
JAX, FL 32210
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:55:00 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I am for greyhound decoupling. Decoupling should result in fewer dogs suffering injuries and enduring lives of confinement.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA PHILLIPS
GREY2K
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 3:56:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I request that the Senate Gaming Committee include decoupling and injury reporting in the gambling bill to help the greyhounds used in racing. There is no justification for allowing greyhound injuries to go unreported/undocumented. These living creatures deserve this extension of humanity.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DARLA DILL
GREY2K USA
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33334
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:55:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)
PASS GREYHOUSE DECOUPLING!!!!!! This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. STOP THIS ANIMAL ABUSE FROM CONTINUING PLEASE.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA FRAN CZ
OCALA, FL 3476
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:56:30 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I AM FOR--requiring the tracks to report GREYHOUND injuries to the public.
I AM FOR--GREYHOUND decoupling.
It is important to me that we change our priorities inorder to protect a good way of life, taking care of ourselves and innocent animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK AND FELICE SHAPIRO
NONE
TAMARAC, FL 33321
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:58:10 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Dear Committee - PLEASE treat greyhound dogs humanely. They are such a sweet animal, and shouldn't ever have to suffer, especially for someone else's fun. Please support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting, PLEASE.....
Thank you so much for your time and thoughts.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK AND FELICE SHAPIRO
 NONE
 TAMARAC, FL 33321
 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:50:11 AM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
 PLEASE stop coupling of greyhounds NOW. It is disgusting and needless. We don't know anyone who will go to a dog track any more because of the abuse of these poor sweet dogs!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: M. PAULINE WOOD
 NAPLES, FL 34119
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:02:40 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
 Please support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Greyhound racing is not a sport and is not entertainment. It is cruel and inhumane treatment of a very gentle breed of animal. Please consider this request. Thank you.
 M. Pauline Wood

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGUERITE BLAKE
 TAMPA, FL 33634
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:03:53 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
 Please protect the greyhound dogs in regard to racing. I want decoupling passed. Second, I want all injuries to greyhound dogs to get reported to the public. To be a matter of public availability to know what dogs get hurt and how. I want full disclosure of animals welfare. The humane treatment of Florida's greyhounds in racing is an important issue for me and my families. Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HOLLIE HOLLON
 ORL, FL 32806
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:13:53 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
 In addition to decoupling, I am calling on lawmakers to require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.
 I'm fighting for these two important laws by contacting you the Florida Senate Gaming Committee today. I'm in favor of protecting greyhounds by using this form on your Committee's website.
 The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.
 Thank you for your time and ocnsideration on this very important matter.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HOLLLOIE HOLLON ORL, FL 32806 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:45:17 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Florida Senate Gaming Committee;
I support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know that dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.
I support decoupling for the following reasons:
The first reason is making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Also Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA BLAKENEY PENSACOLA, FL 32504 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:14:54 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Lawmakers,
Please consider revising the law that requires live greyhound racing for other gambling activities to occur in Florida. Gambling facilities should be allowed to operate without Florida law requiring that they also offer live greyhound racing. Also, if greyhound racing must continue in Florida, please consider forcing the tracks and kennels to report all greyhound injuries to the public. The public has the right to be informed as to what the "costs" are of greyhound racing. Thank you for your time and consideration. Let's move Florida forward to the 21st century!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELODY HURON JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:16:41 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is extremely important and I fully support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ARLENE RUDIN SARASOTA, FL 34238 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:21:26 PM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me and my family. For that reason I would like the The Florida State Gaming Committee to know that we support decoupling of greyhound racing and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MAUREEN EAKIN W. MELBOURNE, FL 32904
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:22:41 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
 Grehound racing should be stopped altogethr it is cruel and many dogs are injured or killed in this horrific so called sport. But failing to get it stopped please sign into law the measures that will protect these innocent animals from injury. Thank you13

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA REUSCHLE PONTE VEDRA, FL 32082
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:24:12 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
 I support Greyhound decoupling and the mandatory reporting of Greyhound injuries.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHIRLEY HUDLESON NONE TITUSVILLE, FL 32796
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:24:54 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
 It is my belief that the "Gambling Sport of Greyhound Racing" is hurtful to the dogs and the community in general. Having owned a Retired Greyhound who raced for nearly 5 years, I am of the opinion that should this dog had never been put into the racing circuit, she would have been an entirely different dog. Her personality was wonderful around women, but she was very frightened of men. Someone had to have abused her to make her feel that way. When I took her to my Vet after adopting her it was obvious from one look at her teeth that she had been fed only the poorest of diets and never given a thorough dental cleaning. She was a gentle, loving dog who deserved better, and she finally found it with our family.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIZABETH ASHER FORT MYERS, FL 33907
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:25:01 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
 The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and that you support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA AUGUGLIARO OCALA, FL 34479
 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:36:27 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
 Come on guys racing Greyhounds? We might as well fight bulls or bait bears! Stop animal suffering!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA AUGUGLIARO OCALA, FL 34479
 Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 8:37:43 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
 I support Decoupling and Injury Reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARJORIE ANGELO FLAGLER BEACH, FL 32136 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:40:09 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
i am writing to support the humane treatment of greyhounds and greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE CAVAGNARO MAITLAND, FL 32751 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:43:55 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please pass greyhound decoupling. We need to separate greyhound racing and gambling in Florida if we will ever succeed in eradicating greyhound racing permanently.
Lawmakers need to require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is very dangerous and allows continued mistreatment of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES HARTINGER INDIVIDUAL NICEVILLE, FL 32578 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:47:43 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
Please decouple Greyhound racing from the Florida gaming industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEAN MIXON SARASOTA, FL 34243 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:54:26 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANE SALTA MYSELF LARGO, FL 33773 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:56:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I ask you to please stop greyhound racing in Florida. It is so cruel and inhumane. These wonderful creatures only want love and a home like any other dog but instead they are forced to run for a sick human pleasure. They live in small cages, eat rotten food, are given no vet care, are injured, drugged and die alone. Why? So people can bet on them. There is no accountability in Fl. concerning injuries. Fl. and Alabama are the two last states not reporting injuries. The whole greyhound racing industry makes me physically sick. We have no right to imprison these dogs. Stop greyhound racing now! Jane Salta

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANE SALTA LARGO, FL 33773
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:08:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am asking you to please stop greyhound racing in Florida. These beautiful creatures deserve better. Fl. has more racetracks than any other state. I am mortified by this. Why do we think we have the right to enslave these dogs? They are in cages 20 hours a day, fed rotten food, drugged, injured and killed. For what? They want a home and love like any other dog. Please do anything in your power to stop this barbaric sport. Thank you, Jane Salta

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENISE WHITE SOUTHPORT, FL 32409
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 4:59:14 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please support DECOUPLING and the REPORTING of GREYHOUND INJURIES in the upcoming vote on changing our gambling laws. Florida and Alabama are the only two states left to show support for these changes. Lets show that Florida is in line with the rest of the country!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENISE WHITE SOUTHPORT, FL 32409
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:47:29 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

We all remember the atrocity that occurred at Ebro. Please consider these docile and beautiful dogs and DECOUPLE!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JACQUELINE ECKERT JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:09:57 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am in favor or decoupling greyhound racing and mandatory reporting of injuries on or off the tracks. Anytime animals are used for racing, and entertainment for the public, some regulation is necessary in order assist in the prevention of outright obvious abuses and unnecessary accidents and harm to the animals involved.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAQUELINE ECKERT PRIVATE JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:44:05 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I ask that the members vote for decoupling of greyhound racing and a mandatory reporting of dog injuries on the tracks. Please be aware that numerous accidents happen and are not reported, because reporting is strictly voluntary. This is morally reprehensible. Greyhound racing is losing popularity, probably because more people are becoming aware that the dogs are treated as expendable objects with many killed, because when they reach an age of about 5 when they are no longer profitable on the tracks. Also, the dogs spend almost their entire lives cooped up in cages or kennels and mostly only get out to race. If we decouple the racing industry, people will still be able to gamble without the necessary accompaniment of cruel dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: C DAY VERO, FL 32960 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:18:14 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Against Expansion of Gaming
Please stop allowing greyhounds to be tortured AND used for \$\$.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN BURROUGHS ORLANDO, FL 32829 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:23:00 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Neither For nor Against

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. It's time to stop the misuse and abuse of these amazing animals. NO one wants to go watch them any more. I know personally of a vet who worked for a track until he grew sick of euthanizing healthy but losing animals. It sicked him... and ME! Start protecting these animals!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EDITH MARCUS GREYHOUNDS OF FLORIDA VENICE, FL 34293 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:25:15 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

I respectfully urge you to do everything in your power to protect the greyhounds and stop this horrendous "sport" where these animals are only used by greedy individuals until they no longer can run. These magnificent dogs deserve a better life in a home than on a track. Please do the humane thing and save these animals. Also, until then, all accidents should be reported and if the dogs do not get the veterinarian care they deserve, these individuals should be fined or jailed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORI MARSHALL SARASOTA, FL 34236 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:25:35 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

Please pass Greyhound decoupling and make it mandatory that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. In today's world, everything we can do to assist in promoting kindness, love and higher levels of thinking should be a priority for a better humanity. Animal cruelty in any form is barbaric and these exquisite greyhound dogs are all love and heart! Let's work together to promote love as we create a non-violent world. Protect the greyhound please!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HERBERT ERDMENGER MIAMI, FL 33131 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:31:50 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling) Against Expansion of Gaming

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HERBERT ERDMENGER MIAMI, FL 33131 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:04:20 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) For Information Only

Please do not allow dog racing in Florida. Furthermore, prohibit it all together. Force those dog racing outfits to treat those poor racing dogs with dignity and love!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | PAT DUNCAN DELTONA, FL 32838 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:52:16 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: For Information Only |

As a voter I am asking for more humane treatment for Greyhounds. My request is that you support decoupling and public reporting of Greyhound injuries.

Sincerely,
Pat Duncan
147 Highland Dr
Deltona, FL 32738

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JACK MCMANUS GREY2K USA ST. JAMES CITY , FL 33956 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:55:06 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

it is imperative to decouple greyhound racing and vitally important to capture greyhound injuries as to protect these beautiful animals from abuse. Would you subject your dog to this kind of treatment. Thank you for consideration of this request. jack mcmanus

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | GAEL MURPHY FLORIDA DOGS TAMPA, FL 33604 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:56:47 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | | Position: Neither For nor Against |

Decouple dog racing from other gambling. Dog Racing should be a crime. Card rooms should be allowed without the videos of animals being forced to run. Animal abuse is not sporting!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | PAULA HORNE NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33917 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:04:21 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

I'm writing to voice my opinion against greyhound racing. I feel one great step toward helping the greyhounds is to decouple gambling and dog racing. This will show that cruelly treating greyhounds will not impact the gambling industry in the state of Florida.

Beyond this, we need to report all greyhound injuries to the public so that everyone is well informed about greyhound racing and it's consequences.

My newest greyhound adoption was my wonderful girl who broke her leg at the Miami track. Thankfully, Joey's Greyhounds were called to pick up the dog (with her leg untouched - not treated) and I was able to meet her and love her.

However, this conduct is not humane and should be stopped and reported.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JACQUELINE ODOM MRS. CRESTVIEW, FL 32539 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:14:37 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

I'm against ANY kind of gaming/gambling that involves ANY animal. Period. Animals were not intended to be used this way. It's abuse, plain and simple.

thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KARINE SHASOUA CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33071
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:15:02 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I would like to express that I am against dog racing in general and against decoupling. Please take this into consideration as the conditions for greyhounds is unacceptable to me and a large number of the the people in the state of Florida.
Thank you sincerely,
Karine Shashoua

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KARINE SHASHOUA CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33076
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:39:46 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please support decoupling of live greyhound racing! Please cast a humane vote for these beautiful animals. Thank you.
38 year Florida resident, Karine Shashoua

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA SARLI GULF BREEZE, FL 32563
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:17:02 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am a firm supporter of the HUMANE treatment of greyhounds!
I am a also a firm supporter of greyhound decoupling and of greyhound injury reporting!
I believe in speaking up for those who can not speak for themselves. These beautiful animals deserve better lives!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAMELA PAYNE MS. OCALA, FL 34481
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:34:48 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I fully support greyhound decoupling and injury reporting.I urge you to pass these laws.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAMELA PAYNE MS. OCALA, FL 34481
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 9:08:36 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I want to urge you to support decoupling for greyhounds. Entertainment should not be at the pain and life expense of living beings. I also urge you to support the reporting of injuries and taking appropriate medical care measures.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK DENNETT LUTZ, FL 33558
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 6:49:19 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

This is to express my support for the two greyhound protection bills that will be before your committee. The first deals with decoupling which will remove the state dog racing mandate. The second deals with requiring that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Both of these bills will reduce the harmful treatment of greyhounds and will improve their well-being. Please consider supporting these bills passage into law. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JODY RICHARDS
ANIMAL LOVER
ORLANDO, FL 32806
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 7:06:35 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am for more transparency regarding greyhound injuries as well as decoupling to prevent more animals from suffering in the racing arena.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAT DUEGER
ESTERO, FL 33928
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 7:17:39 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Humane treatment of greyhounds is very important to me and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAT DUEGER
ESTERO, FL 33928
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:27:44 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs. Dog racing is archaic and cruel and it tarnish the image of our great state.

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT MCFARLAND
WILTON MANORS, FL 33305
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 7:23:35 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Please support these humane policies and support greyhounds in Florida.

First, I am asking lawmakers to pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. In addition to decoupling, I am calling on lawmakers to require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.

Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELLE BECK
SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 7:51:22 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

do not allow gaming of greyhounds in florida. we have plenty of casinos to gamble at without hurting more animals. it is a crime and not necessary to race greyhounds!!!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MICHELLE B SEBASTIAN, FL 32958 | Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 6:25:01 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Do NOT race greyhounds!!! It is cruel and inhumane. Build more casinos for your money!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CAROL OHLENDORF BRADENTON, FL 34202 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 8:19:06 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and that I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CAROL OHLENDORF BRADENTON, FL 34202 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:49:19 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |

I am in favor of greyhound decoupling..

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ELAINE SWAIN TALLAHASSEE, FL 32304 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 9:02:52 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I am a Greyhound owner and know that Greyhound racing in Florida is a cruel sport. These beautiful dogs suffer long confinement, lack of creature comfort and injuries while racing. They are run only because the state mandates it and few people even watch any more. Decoupling would stop the unnecessary running and fewer dogs would be placed in this situation. Please stand for decoupling.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ELAINE SWAIN MS. TALLAHASSEE, FL 32304 | Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 12:21:08 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

While I am not in favor of gambling and wouldn't do it myself, my real interest here is the Greyhounds who continue to suffer uncomfortable lives, lack of good care, lack of human fellowship, and shortened lives. I feel strongly that whatever happens with gambling itself, Greyhound racing should end. Decoupling would be a start toward that as the hounds would not be forced to race whether anyone cared to watch them or not. Please put your decision in favor of the dogs and end mandatory racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FREYDA CHEMES SR. PET CONNECTION CLEARWATER, FL 33763
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 9:32:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I want a stop to gaming in Greyhound Racing Venues used as an excuse to continue this inhumane practice of Greyhound Racing which is cruel and inhuman treatment of these gentle pets.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAYLE EDELMAN-TOLCHIN BOCA RATON, FL 33498
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 10:30:45 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
Please decouple the need to have gambling and greyhound races.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAYLE EDELMAN-TOLCHIN BOCA RATON, FL 33498
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:57 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please DECOUPLE dog racing and gambling. These dogs don't deserve the life they are forced into, because racing and gambling must go on together.
Please have a heart, this is a crime against these beautiful animals.
Thank you-

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TANYA VILLAR GREY2K USA PLANTATION, FL 33324
Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 11:03:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
we are asking lawmakers to pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BEN FUSARO MY FAMILY TALLAHASSEE, FL 32312
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 12:57:01 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury- reporting, since these will contribute to the more humane treatment of greyhounds, which is important to our family.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAWN LAURYN GAINESVILLE, FL 32641
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:31:04 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important and I hope that you, like I, support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting! I appreciate your consideration. Thanks!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHLEEN BISHOP SOUTHERN PALM ZEN GROUP DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 5:41:55 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

All creatures large and small need protection from man's greed and ignorance. These animals need to be helped by us not hindered. Compassion for all sentient and insentient things is what our ultimate goal in life should be, let's start here! Report this information about the animals the people have a right to know!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUE REDFIELD SARASOTA, FL 34243
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 6:41:54 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Cardrooms)

Please vote to eliminate the requirement to have greyhound racing as a requirement for establishments to hold other gaming activities.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MATT ALEXANDER ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 7:22:33 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Eradicate the exploitation of animals for greed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELISE CAPLAN ST PETERSBURG, FL 33753
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 8:14:49 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The Greyhound tracks need to not be tracks of animal abuse and exploit but used for say, human endeavor like bicycle/running/adventure sport racing run by the cities to increase municipal revenue and community health. The dogs should be rehabilitated and adopted as soon as possible to put an end to a cruel, unusual and archaic sport. There are several watch dog animal rights and rescue groups with horrific accounts of starvation and murder if dogs are under-performing. Let's end this. Let's make it happen.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA EFIRD FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33334
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 8:21:36 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Thank you,
Lisa

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TARA GRIMES ORANGE CITY, FL 32763
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:06:59 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please help to change the laws that would protect the greyhound and the way they have to live there lives in cages and the pain and suffering they endure.Thank You

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JILL GUERRA BOCA RATON, FL 33433
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:21:22 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I am writing to please ask that you pass the greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting laws. Help protect these innocent animals please!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAUL BIENICK SARASOTA, FL 34238
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:28:37 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

While I am neither for nor against the expansion of gambling itself, I am writing to express my support for greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUGLAS JEDLICKA GREY2K MACEDONIA, OH 44056
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:29:22 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

To The Florida Senate; I am sending all of you this message in the immediate need of all Greyhounds at your present Racing Establishments and that I support an to keep intact The Greyhound Injury Report an also Greyhound Decoupling Act. These 2(two)Requirements are a must to keep the welfare of the Greyhounds respected an recognized to the fullest degree. I'd like to Thank You for your time an consideration on this matter. Sincerely, Douglas Jedlicka.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUGLAS JEDLICKA MACEDONIA, OH 44056
Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 8:34:05 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

In my opinion an thoughts are to end gambling/betting on an in the so called sport of Greyhound Racing. The cruelty an inhuman acts to these magnificent creatures has got to stop immediately. They are torchurd by cutting of their ears so the owner/trainer can not be found after the person no longer can profit from winning races.They are made to stay in under sized crates for long periods of time. There is nothing to become of this dying sport an its time that we put an end to it. I am an always will be the voice of the voiceless! Please find it in your hearts to abolish Greyhound Racing for ever. Thank You. Sincerely Douglas Jedlicka

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY REYELT
GET OUT OF TOWN TRAVEL
NAPLES, FL 34110
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:52:55 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I ask you to support Greyhound decoupling and to report all injuries to the public.

Florida is a disgrace to man's best friend. We have the most greyhound racing tracks in the U.S. I am embarrassed to say I am from Florida.

You have the power to stop Greyhound racing, like Massachusetts and Colorado. Please be our voice.

Thank you,
Nancy Reyelt, President
Get Out of Town Travel
187 Wickliffe Drive
Naples, FL. 34110

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN PHILIPP
LANTANA, FL 33462
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:58:40 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dear Madam/Sir. This is a request regarding the use of greyhounds in racing and gambling. I want to request the humane treatment of greyhounds. It is important to me. Also, I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Sincerely, Susan Philipp

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY FIRMINGER
SELF
SPRING HILL, FL 34610
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 10:25:56 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing and making info available to the public. I would like to see greyhound racing banned altogether. There is a nasty downside to this racing and it really needs to end. In 2013 we need to show greater compassion like never before. Please help achieve this goal. Surely there are other ways to provide income to the state of FL. And surely you can do something to stop the awful abuse that exists in greyhound racing.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DALE JACKSON
CITIZEN
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 11:16:43 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound Racing: Please support (1) Greyhound decoupling, and (2) Greyhound injury reporting. These 2 actions will help to save hundreds or thousands of these wonderful dogs. I have now had four greyhound pets, and they don't deserve to have endured life in cages, injuries, and life without social feedback that is so vital to canines. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUNIA OVERTON BOCA RATON, FL 33486 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 11:57:30 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

As a constituent I urge you to provide humane treatment for greyhounds. I strongly support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. As you may already know, the State of Florida is losing money with greyhound racing and the general public is totally against this old fashioned and cruel form of entertainment that doesn't even have supporters, except for the breeders in Georgia. There is no justification for greyhound racing.

Junia Overton

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ARWEN WEISS NONE ORLANDO, FL 32826 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 12:07:00 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) Position: Neither For nor Against

My comment is regarding greyhound racing in Florida. I support greyhound decoupling to give gaming establishments the option NOT to race greyhounds. Personally, I would never visit any establishment that races greyhounds, even though I do not take issue with other types of gaming which do not hurt animals. I know there are many other Floridians who feel the same way. Secondly, I would ask that injuries to racing greyhounds be reported to the public. Not reporting these injuries allows animal abuse to go under-the-radar and abusers to go unpunished. I find this completely unacceptable. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak out on this issue.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE MILLION CAPE CORAL, FL 33904 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 1:07:32 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please DECOUPLE Greyhound racing. That's it plain & simple. Bring in all the slot machines you like, just stop the confinement and lousy quality of life for these dogs for those trying to profit on their misery. Vast majority not interested in greyhound racing any more.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA BRUCE ESTERO, FL 33928 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 1:53:04 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

The humane treatment of greyhounds is VERY important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Both decoupling and reporting are logical, responsible, and ethical -- and ultimately where the future is heading. Florida needs to keep up with the other states!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALAN FREED ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32086 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 1:53:05 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Position: For Information Only

Please require Florida greyhound racing facilities to complete injury reports. Also, please do away with the requirement that casinos must have live greyhound racing.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALAN FREED ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:16:39 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Decoupling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This requirement inflicts pain and suffering on the dogs and doesn't benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and animals suffer. Greyhounds are forced to spend approximately 20 hours each day confined in small cages. They receive inadequate veterinary care and SUBSTANDARD food. Decoupling will substantially reduce dog racing and thousands of dogs will not be subject to constant confinement and terrible abuse.
Thank you for helping these gentle and loving dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALAN FREED ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 11:36:12 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dear Gaming Commission members,
please approve the decoupling of greyhound racing and gambling casinos. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This requirement inflicts pain and suffering on the dogs and doesn't benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and cause animals to suffer. Greyhounds are forced to spend approximately 20 hours each day confined in small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and very substandard food. Decoupling will substantially reduce dog racing and thousands of dogs will not be subject to constant confinement and terrible abuse. Also many thousands of greyhounds will not be euthanized because of overbreeding.
Another issue the Commission should support is greyhound injury reporting. Florida and Alabama are the only two States that do not publicly report injuries. Injury reporting will increase transparency, is easy and simple to implement, will have no fiscal impact in Florida, will save greyhound lives (in States where greyhound injury reporting laws are in effect the number of greyhounds euthanized has significantly declined).
Thank you for your consideration and for helping these gently and loving dogs.
Alan Freed
St. Augustine, FL
904-599-4888
Bebra66@bellsouth.net

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAY KARIOTH SARASOTA, FL 34238 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:09:38 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am in support of greyhound decoupling, and greyhound injury reporting. Surely we don't want to be thought of in the same realm as Alabama!! This is serious....the time has come to end this assault on these beautiful and gentle animals. There has to be a better way for the State to make money.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLES AND MARY DANIELIAN SELF NAPLES, FL 34110
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:09:42 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

The use of a loss leader is a management decision. No business entity should be forced, by law, to offer that loss leader in order to offer a substantially more profitable entity. From a purely business standpoint, Decoupling is a no brainer. The "live racing mandate" is almost twenty years old. It has served it's purpose. It is outdated and we've moved beyond it with our concerns for animal welfare. Although only a compromise solution, decoupling is the only way to end this cruel and inhumane form of entertainment in the state which boasts the most greyhound racing tracks in the nation (13). Please urge your state senator and representative to vote in support of the decoupling bill in the next legislative session. As a dog lover and animal advocate, I believe Greyhound Racing Greyhound racing is an exceedingly cruel and abusive industry, in which the dogs are often injured while racing, and are killed when they are no longer profitable and can't be adopted. Every year thousands of dogs are killed because they can no longer run fast enough. They daily face cruel treatment and neglect, often with sparse veterinary care. They are forced to perform all year, even on the hottest summer days. They are caged for up to 22 hours per day and fed the cheapest meat possible. Thousands are seriously injured while competing; these injuries include bone fractures, spinal cord injuries, seizures and death from cardiac arrest. Thousands of puppies are specially bred just to race. Dogs, which do not show ability while training, are killed. The lucky few, are adopted out. But there's a down side to that too - every time a racing greyhound is rescued and adopted, some other companion animal in a pound or shelter is not. Using animals for entertainment is wrong. It is just plain cruel, inhumane and should be against the law. There are other outlets for gambling that don't exploit animals. How many more have to suffer and die before the laws will be changed and the animals set free? And is it too much to ask that all injuries be reported. If the industry has nothing to hide why do they fight every attempt to institute "Injury Reporting"? OSHA requires the logging of any injury requiring medical attention – as simple as applying a Band-Aid. I'd much rather be able to say that I don't approve of Greyhound Racing, but judging from the injury reporting data, it's a safe business. I don't believe that any animal should be used for entertainment and that no one should be able to profit from their exploitation. There's a reason that greyhound racing is illegal, or was never made legal, in 38 states.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORI GRASSO SUNRISE, FL 33325
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:09:43 PM

Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I respectfully ask that you de-couple dog racing and allow dog tracks to operate gaming houses without also having to run the dogs. It's not making any money for anyone - it's especially cruel to these poor animals who are poorly mistreated and live in cages while trained - then are put down if they don't produce results UNLESS they're lucky enough to find an adoptive home. I've had 5 Greyhounds - still have one now - and if I could I would rescue them all. They are the most kind, loving, even-tempered breed I've ever experienced. In fact, two of my Greyhounds have been therapy dogs - visiting hospitals and nursing homes and working with autistic children and adults. Please spare any more of them from having to endure the torture of being bred specifically to make money for trainers, owners and breeders, and give these kind, loving creatures the chance they deserve. Thanks so much for listening and for doing the right thing when it comes to the dogs - no matter how much pressure you may receive from lobbyists for the breeders, trainers, and owners.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CYNTHIA MURPHY PENSACOLA, FL 32503
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:24:35 PM

Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

S top the abuse of greyhound's

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KELLY MORTON JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:52:21 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
The humane treatment of greyhound dogs is important to me. I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAYLE SCHLESSEL LAKE WORTH, FL 33467 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 2:56:53 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
The humane treatment of greyhounds is very important to me. I am in support of Greyhound Decoupling and Greyhound Injury Reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAIRE INSLEY JACKSONVILLE, FL 32224 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 3:09:37 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to you, and that you support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON COHEN GREY2K USA AVENTURA, FL 33180 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 3:29:33 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
The humane treatment of greyhounds is extremely important to me and I strongly urge your support for greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON COHEN AVENTURA, FL 33180 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:56:20 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
"I am pleading with you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."
How much longer do these poor dogs have to suffer? Please do the right thing and end this atrocity.
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY LOWELL TAMPA, FL 33617
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 4:03:08 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

To cut to the chase here, I am asking lawmakers to pass greyhound decoupling and I want a requirement that greyhound racing injuries be reported to the public. My reasons follow.

So, my concerns with gambling in Florida are mostly about greyhound racing. I do not care to gamble, but I certainly do not mind others doing it. I grew up in Tampa in the "boleta" era, and believe that gambling, like prostitution, is going to happen. It's simply a matter of whether everyone involved is playing on a level field, and are in their positions of their own choice. Thus my concern with greyhound racing.

These animals are not there of their own accord, and the business that brings them there is cruel and, as gambling goes, not all that popular anymore. But, the mandatory racing requirement FORCES greyhound tracks to offer live greyhound racing as a "loss leader" for other, more viable forms of gambling. This comes at a significant cost to both taxpayers and track operators, and conflicts with free market principles. Good grief! Let the dog racing go, and give the parimutuels and gamblers the games they want.

As for injury reporting somehow that decreases the number of injuries the dogs have. Magical, isn't it? Seriously, injury reporting saves lives, and Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report greyhound injuries to the public. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.

I wrote and asked for this last year, didn't get it. Please, let this be the year we decouple.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET DELEUSE GREY2K USA TIBURON, CA 94920
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 4:20:50 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

Please stop the barbaric sport of watching animals suffer for entertainment.

Please show civility in this century and realize that dogs, like you, are mammals--they feel pain as you do. But, like an innocent child they cannot escape from the abusers.

Please do not support dog racing. Dogs are not machines, cars are machines.

Thank you for doing the right thing for all humanity, teach kindness.

Janet Deleuse
Biologist, SFSU

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARLENE IREDALE COCONUT CREEK, FL 33073
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 4:39:08 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The vote in 2005 for Broward County for the ability for Pari-mutuels to add slots was as I recall about permitting established pari-mutuels to add slots, not for them to stop live events. I think many who voted to approve that had no intention of ever letting these venues stop doing the live events and be just another casino limited to slots or not.

I for one am furious with the idea of decoupling from the point that it was not the intention of my vote in 2005 to allow slots to be available in location that did not already have a form of gambling (in this case live event betting).

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHIRLEY LEWIS TALLAHASSEE, FL 32309
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 5:02:11 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support the decoupling bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA WALDRON JACKSONVILLE, FL 32223
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 5:50:35 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I urge you to support greyhound decoupling and mandatory public reporting of greyhound injuries. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LARAIN W INN CLEARWATER, FL 33762
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 6:09:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Greyhound racing is very simply animal abuse. Just so useless humans can gamble. There is no excuse for this. Morally, ethically, it must be stopped. Of course, those who engage in this practice have no morals or ethics. All the more reason to abolish it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LARAIN W INN CLEARWATER, FL 33762
Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 11:32:43 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am totally against greyhound racing. It is a horrible abuse of animals and should be banned.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LARAIN W INN CLEARWATER, FL 33762
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:48:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Greyhound racing is blatant animal abuse and should be shut down, not expanded. If people want to gamble, abusing an animal is not the way to do it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN FOSTEL NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34652
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 6:11:43 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am strongly in support of decoupling of greyhound racing and reporting of greyhound injuries in the state of Fla.. I am adamantly opposed to any gambling regarding horses or any other animals. it should be outlawed, it's inhumane, barbaric and a through back to the dark ages.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN FOSTEL NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34652
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:44:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA SELQUIST
PORT ST LUCIE, FL 34987
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 6:15:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Further, since the State now takes in less from greyhound racing than it spends in supervising and regulating dog racing, it isn't even an economically viable thing to do anymore.

I urge you to do 3 things:

- 1) decouple greyhound racing from other types of legal gambling
- 2) mandate the public reporting of greyhound injuries and deaths
- 3) outlaw dog racing altogether, the sooner the better

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA SELQUIST
MRS.
PORT ST LUCIE, FL 34987
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:23:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

It costs as much to regulate as it brings in as income to the State. It's inherently cruel to the poor dogs. It exploits them for the entertainment of the public. Racing dogs is usually just a way to get State approval for other kinds of gambling, anyway, and I strongly feel it should not be allowed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARION LEBO
MRS.
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34224
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 8:10:32 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support the humane treatment of greyhounds, along with the reporting of injuries and an end to decoupling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARION LEBO
MRS.
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34224
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 12:58:34 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I am asking you to stop the cruel treatment of greyhounds and to stop using them for the selfish pleasure of humans, by supporting greyhound injury reporting and the decoupling bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARAH M SEKAC
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32714
Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 8:25:20 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Hello,

I am reaching out to the Committee to share that the humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and that I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

As a native Floridian in Seminole County I recognize the importance of having a strong economy and that the dog track in my county provides jobs. However, we have a responsibility to have strict requirements and guidelines particularly when the activity involves living beings who are 100% dependent on humans.

I sincerely hope the Committee elects to put in place the necessary measures to protect greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOAN TAMMI OVIEDO, FL 32765
 Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 9:33:08 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

My request is to decouple greyhound racing from other forms of gambling. To require greyhounds to run X number of races/year in order to have a gaming license leads to injuries and breeding of these beautiful dogs who are just traded and used as commodities. Disposable. Please do not allow this harmful link to continue. This practice is an embarrassment to the State of Florida. I know that decoupling will not stop all greyhound racing in the state, but it would be a great first step. Thank you!
 Joan Tammi

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNY BRAMLETTE WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33545
 Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 2:29:59 AM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is very important to me. I support decoupling and reporting of all injuries to the public.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: THOMAS SHAW HOME OWNER VALRICO, FL 33594
 Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 5:21:43 AM
 Position: For Information Only
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The human treatment of greyhounds is important to me and my family. We support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Thank You.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM SUDDABY SUGARLOAF KEY, FL 33042
 Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 9:20:22 AM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Greyhound racing should not be richly subsidized benefiting out of state breeders, who breed thousands of dogs which are then discarded by the industry after they are 2 or 3 years old. It is a wretched business for a civilized society. The vast majority of states do not allow it, and Florida would benefit from disallowing it. It is not a money maker. Transparency is urgently needed in the public reporting of injuries and deaths of greyhounds on Florida's tracks. Thanks for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOYCE CARTA GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS OF FL, INC. ANTHONY, FL 32617
 Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 12:16:02 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

BUT, most definitely FOR the Greyhound Racing Decoupling Bill AS WELL AS FOR the Greyhound Racing Injury Reporting Bill. Passage of both bills will be an enormous step forward in protecting FL's racing greyhounds, as well as protecting the economic interests of both the State and the market forces interests of the race track owners. Win/win...and you can't get better than that. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY MONK DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 3:58:25 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am asking for your support of legislation protecting greyhounds from injury and death. Please support decoupling and the law that would mandate the reporting of dog injuries. Greyhound racing is an antiquated sport which causes the suffering of thousands of dogs in the U.S. Florida must move forward and demonstrate compassion and common sense. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE MONK DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 5:58:37 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am in favor of expanding gambling in Florida, but I am against greyhound racing completely. This sport involves the injuries and deaths of dogs every year at race tracks, and their lives are miserable in the way they are warehoused, trained, and eventually abandoned. Please support decoupling and the reporting laws that would make greyhound injuries public knowledge. And please support the expansion of more casinos in our state. Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEREK MONK DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 4:03:10 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support the decoupling legislation and also the proposed law that would make the reporting of racing dog injuries public. These gentle, beautiful animals deserve to be treated with the same compassion as most Floridians treat their own pets. I encourage you to bring the humane treatment of greyhounds to Florida once and for all. Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEREK MONK DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 5:53:46 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I'm writing to ask for your support of the decoupling law and the law that would mandate the reporting of injuries experienced by racing greyhounds. It's very important for this state to demonstrate compassion and progression in the gambling industry by making greyhound racing a thing of the past. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MYRIAM GIOVANNINI MS. WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 7:04:19 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I want to express that the humane treatment of greyhounds is very important to me. I urge you to please pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. A cruel inhumane and painful existence! Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HEATHER MAKOVER FORT MYERS, FL 33913
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 7:31:48 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please allow the decoupling bill to be approved. Greyhound racing is no longer making the pari-mutuels money. However, it continues racing dogs that are in danger of injury or death.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PEGGY CASPER ZIMMER REPORTING, INC. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 8:08:01 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

In regards to greyhound racing, please pass the legislation that would require decoupling and injury reporting. I am proud that we in Florida are a humane society, and this legislation is in keeping with that. I strongly urge you to please protect the greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGARET CASPER JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
Comments submitted: 12/2/2013 11:21:21 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

It's time to join the ranks of other states who outlaw greyhound racing. We are one of very few states that still allow the cruel, animal-abusing culture to exist. It has been shown to be inhumane. The dogs are often injured, sometimes fatally. When they are hurt, it's common that they are left to suffer before given medical attention. The conditions in which they are kept are deplorable. When they are retired, many are destroyed in cruel ways. Others face homelessness. If people want to gamble, fine; but let's not make helpless creatures be made to suffer for people's entertainment. Please vote to outlaw greyhound racing. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELLEN BERLER TALLAHASSEE, FL 32309
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 12:21:10 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

As an owner of retired racing greyhounds since 1994, I know how wonderful these dogs are and how important it is to stop or decrease greyhound racing or at least change the laws to improve the lives of these dogs while living at the track. I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting and ask that you support these bills. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREA BARLOW SEMINOLE, FL 33772 Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 1:47:46 PM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I have learned that over the next few months, Florida lawmakers will vote on changing the state's gambling laws. I would you to enact the following two important greyhound protection measures. Please pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. In addition to decoupling, please require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives. Please do the right thing for these animals that used and abused. Thank you, Andrea Barlow

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREA BARLOW SEMINOLE, FL 33772 Comments submitted: 11/16/2013 2:46:17 AM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

As a Florida resident and a member of The League of Humane Voters-Florida Chapter, I would like to see the elimination of the greyhound racing industry because of the inhumane treatment that greyhounds endure. Greyhounds are mass produced for the sole purpose of gambling entertainment. Greyhounds live a very short and inhumane life. When they are no longer profitable, the majority of greyhounds are euthanized. Please consider ending greyhound racing in the state of Florida. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREA BARLOW SEMINOLE, FL 33772 Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 7:58:02 PM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET MILES TALLAHASSEE, FL 32309 Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 9:28:27 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please stop Greyhound racing.

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|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ISABELLE TASSI TAMPA, FL 33602 | Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 8:57:13 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| <p>I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. My preference would be an outright ban on all greyhound racing but if that is not going to happen at this time, the next best option is decoupling and injury reporting for greyhounds. These animals need the protection of these laws. They cannot speak for themselves and therefore need us to speak on their behalf. These are simply 2 humane laws that would add some measure of protection to these kind, defenseless animals. Thank you.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MEGAN BISHOP TAMPA, FL 33651 | Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 11:14:33 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| <p>I am asking lawmakers to pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. In addition to decoupling, I am calling on lawmakers to require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | HALEY COURVILLE NAPLES, FL 34109 | Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 12:34:59 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I strongly support greyhound decoupling and mandatory injury reporting. Over the last decade, Greyhound racing has plummeted in popularity. According to the Division of Pari-mutuel wagering, the amount gambled at Florida dog tracks has gone down by 72% from 1990 to 2013. Since 1990, state taxes generated by greyhound racing have declined by 98%. Florida is now losing money on greyhound racing, because it doesn't even bring in enough tax revenue to cover regulatory costs. Despite these dismal financials, and the public's waning interest in greyhound racing, Florida continues to mandate the SAME number of races at pari-mutuel facilities. Decoupling does not amount to a ban on greyhound racing. It simply removes an outdated and burdensome requirement, that costs too much for both the taxpayers and Florida's pari-mutuel operators. There is no doubt, however, that decoupling would significantly reduce dog racing in our state. And this is the right direction for Florida. One reason for the steep decline in popularity of greyhound racing is a growing public awareness of the inhumane practices that are inherent in this sport. Right now, at Florida tracks, thousands of greyhounds are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, stacked one on top of the other. Large greyhounds cannot even stand up. These are companion animals, kept caged and cut off from human contact for 20-23 hours each day. If a racing greyhound is lucky enough to be adopted, it will often need special socialization to counteract the effects of this extreme isolation. Although we are now one of only two states that does not require greyhound injury reporting, the information that IS available indicates that injuries are a serious problem in Florida. For example, 28 greyhounds suffered substantial injuries and 10 were euthanized at Ebro Greyhound Park in just one six-week period in 2011. Although, there has been no fiscal impact in states where greyhound injury reporting laws have passed, the number of greyhounds euthanized in those states has significantly decreased. Massachusetts saw a decline of 43% in the first year, and 88% by year six. Members of the Committee, I urge you to create transparency in greyhound racing by mandating injury reporting, and to remove the antiquated and expensive burden of live racing requirements by passing greyhound decoupling. Thank you.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LACEY LEVITT RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 | Comments submitted: 10/25/2013 11:19:23 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Please pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Additionally, please require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida and Alabama are the only two states that do not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANINE TARANTOLA PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33029 Comments submitted: 10/26/2013 12:42:13 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dear Committee,

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me and my family, as we have rescued two retired greyhounds who have made our lives so wonderful. I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

I ask you to support these very humane acts, and change the laws to support them. I ask you to act with your conscience.

Sincerely,

Janine Tarantola, M.S., LMHC

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHY HOUDE OCOEE, FL 34761 Comments submitted: 10/26/2013 2:07:23 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am supporting the decoupling rule for greyhounds. It is time for greyhound racing to come to an end. It is a cruel and the dogs need to go to loving homes. Being kept in a cage and forced to run after a white object is ridiculous and disgusting.

End Greyhound Racing!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHY HOUDE OCOEE, FL 34761 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:25:32 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to abolish Greyhound racing and support the decoupling bill. The cruel sport of dog racing needs to end. Many other states have already outlawed it and Florida needs to do the same. These poor dogs are not well taken care of and living in a cage is not how they deserve to be treated. Suffering countless injuries that cripple them for the rest of their lives and being discarded when their racing days are over. Florida should be setting a better standard with the culture of wildlife and love for the outdoors and tourism that we provide. Send the right message that we support the love of animals and don't exploit them for human entertainment.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TARA HOTTENSTEIN GULFPORT, FL 33707 Comments submitted: 10/26/2013 2:25:47 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please pass the greyhound decoupling proposal. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will cause fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. I am also requesting that lawmakers require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET SWANSON THE VILLAGES, FL 32162 Comments submitted: 10/26/2013 3:28:55 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support greyhound injury reporting and decoupling of greyhound racing from casino gaming. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN SWANSON
SELF
THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
Comments submitted: 10/26/2013 3:40:07 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Poeple gamgling is a matter of their choice, and is not an issue with me. However, Greyhound racing is not the choice of the dogs, and should be phased out by any manner possible. Decoupling and injury reporting are good steps and will greatly benefit the greyhounds. The public no longer supports greyhound racing, rightfully preferring a more personal experience.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALINA DAVIS
DEERFIELD BEACH, FL 33441
Comments submitted: 10/28/2013 1:42:12 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me. I am writing to let you know that I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information.
I urge you to pass greyhound decoupling and to require injury reporting to the public.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VALERIE HOWELL
CORAL GABLES, FL 33146
Comments submitted: 10/28/2013 4:08:33 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please ensure that decoupling greyhound racing from gambling is a part of your bill. These dogs suffer so much and at least this will allow the tracks to have their gambling without forcing the dogs to run. This will help to reduce the number of dogs used in racing tremendously and therefore save their lives. And please make injury reporting a requirement for trainers. This simple act will cost nothing and yet will save more dogs by making trainers have to report when they get hurt - they will take better care of the dogs. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMANDA BEHNAM
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32224
Comments submitted: 10/28/2013 7:40:14 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CYNTHIA RENNICK
N/A
LARGO, FL 33773
Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 10:25:52 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I would like to state that as a active Florida voter; I am 100% in favor of de-coupling dog racing and gambling. The majority of tracks in Florida are losing money on dog racing. It makes no fiscal sense to risk the injury and death of greyhounds by running them to mostly empty grandstands. This out-dated regulation is not fair to the dogs or to track owners and seems to give special consideration to dog breeders alone. That is NOT capitalism - this is NOT the American way. If the public is no longer interested in patronizing dog racing, then why force track owners to continue to offer it? It's time for a change in Florida. One that moves us forward instead of back.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CYNTHIA RENNICK N/A LARGO, FL 33773 | Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 10:49:23 AM Position: Neither For nor Against |
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As a registered Florida voter, I would like to state that I am 100% in favor of "Greyhound Injury Reporting". I have worked for 10 years in greyhound rescue and have seen countless cases of abuse and neglect of greyhounds coming off racing tracks. I have seen rescue groups take these greyhounds in, greyhounds who need of thousands of dollars worth of veterinary care due to injuries and illnesses. These rescue groups spend their own hard earned donations to care for and rehabilitate these dogs. These are dogs who were bred, trained and raced strictly for profit, and when they are no longer profitable, they are abandoned, cast off, and discarded as worthless by the very people who bred them. It should be against the law.

Greyhounds are NOT worthless. They are living, breathing, sensitive pets and should be protected as such. At the very least, these gentle dogs deserve to have what happens to them at the dog tracks be made public. I question why it's not already! Who is regulating these kennels? Certainly no one in the case of Ronnie Smith (the case of the trainer who killed approximately 40 greyhounds in multiple grisly ways in north Florida). This is an industry that has, for far too long, seemed to regulate itself. Those days need to end. The public is fed up with puppy mill type breeders profiting on the abuse and neglect of the dogs. And that is just what is happening in the greyhound racing industry. If this industry has nothing to be ashamed of, then require them to record and report the injuries and death of the greyhounds in their care. It's as simple as that.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JOYCE ETCHISON NAPLES, FL 34109 | Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 1:52:30 PM Position: For Information Only |
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Greyhound racing needs to be totally taken out of the picture !
I don't care if people want to "gamble" with inanimate objects

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JOYCE ETCHISON NAPLES, FL 34109 | Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 5:12:01 PM Position: Neither For nor Against |
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I urge you to support decoupling - the greyhound racing industry is dying (thankfully) so why do we have to be so tardy in recognizing this? It is cruel, it is lame, it is unnecessary.
I rarely do any kind of gambling, however, I don't really care if tables, slots, etc. are added to our SW Fla culture - just separate it from the inhumane treatment of animals !

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

CRYSTAL CARROLL
HIALEAH, FL 33014

Comments submitted:
10/29/2013 3:43:03 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

For Information Only

I'm writing in regards to "decoupling".

Greyhound racing is a historic past time in south Florida that is still very much alive.

I work at Mardi Gras in Hallandale beach during the winter. Attendance over the last couple years has increased and the handles are going up.

Over 2 billion dollars was wagered on Florida greyhound racing nationwide. The problem is that most of that money is wagered out of state and Florida tracks aren't getting a big enough piece of the pie.

What to do? - It sounds to me that track operators should re-negotiate current agreements pertaining to simulcast dollars. Instead, they are trying to rid the very industry that got them they're casinos, and that is unethical.

Despite what many people may think, racing greyhounds have very good lives and are quite content in doing their "job". Every single one of them would rather be on the track than any place else. Yes, even the retired ones that are laying on someone's couch would rather be at the races. Ask any adopter whom has taken their retired racing greyhound back to a track.

It's a shame that groups like grey2k have been allowed to spew such inaccurate information about the greyhound industry.

I have no idea what was going on in Florida greyhound racing before I came. But, I'm here now and have been for the past 7 years. I never see the things that grey2k professes.

I see happy, healthy dogs, and handlers working around the clock to take good care of them!

Please, before any action is taken to "decouple" ensure that DBPR investigates the finances of each track wishing to decouple and see if there are ways to get Florida track operators a bigger piece of the simulcast money wagered on Florida greyhounds.

Thank you,
Crystal Carroll

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

C MC DONALD
GREY2K USA
NAPLES, FL 34109

Comments submitted:
10/29/2013 8:24:44 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

I am in favor of greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Aren't casino's good enough for gambling. Do we need to get enjoyment from the pain & suffering of animals.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

ELAINE FURMAN
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32217

Comments submitted:
10/29/2013 10:01:32 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

For Information Only

greyhound racing is a cruel & bloody sport- it is not an answer to increasing florida revenue, nor should it be. i am not against gaming, but am very much involving animal cruelty to raise revenue-

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELAINE FURMAN JACKSONVILLE, FL 32217 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:51:50 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

i am against dog racing, dog fighting & the use of any animal for gambling- whether it is cock fighting or dog racing or dog fighting- it brings out the bestiality of people & is harmful not only to the animals involved but to the bettors- if people want to bet on roulette wheels, slot machines or anything else that does not involve animals- that is their choice- the dogs involved do not have any choice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MATTHEW SCHUMITZ PLYMOUTH, MA 02360 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 9:29:10 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I live in Massachusetts and as you may know Greyhound Racing ended a few years ago here, you can still simulcast but its not nearly the same crowd and moneys. Since then the state has lost many tax dollars from the tracks and all of the employees. I think that it is fiscally the wrong idea decouple the racing from poker.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEVE LESSER ME DELRAY BEACH, FL 02072 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 10:25:42 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

please keep LIVE greyhound racing in the state of florida , no for decoupling , palm beach kennel club mardi gras hollywood greyhound park , derby lane , keep it going .

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL CHILTON GREAT , INC. TAMPA, FL 33611 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 10:29:48 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please pass a strong law supporting the decoupling of live greyhound racing from current Florida greyhound tracks, that each facility may choose to cease offering greyhound racing while retaining its card rooms. Please also implement the requirement that all injuries suffered by greyhounds while racing or simply living within the compound be reported, as outlined in the gaming commission's report.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL CHILTON GREAT, INC. TAMPA, FL 33611 Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 3:46:13 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I recommend that the Florida Legislature and Gaming Commission support the decoupling of greyhound racing at those venues which currently have live greyhound racing AND support the reporting of greyhound injuries while racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON DIPPEL DADE CITY, FL 33523 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 11:03:02 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

My main concern on Greyhound decoupling are the dogs themselves. If the bill is passed, we need to phase out racing in a 5 year time line. This is responsible Legislation and takes into consideration the number of dogs on each track (600-800) and the amount of time needed to move these animals into adoption groups and foster homes. The bill should also cover a one year mandate that each track, as it is closed down, is financially responsible for the Greyhounds, keeping them on the track, fed, and medically cared for until they can be moved into adoption. The State needs to inspect these tracks on a regular basis to insure the animals are being taken care of. Without the above considerations, these animals will be euthanized (killed) due to lack of income of both Kennels and Racing Greyhound Owners. There are just too many dogs to acclimate into homes at one time. The tracks want to close down racing due to loss revenue. Card rooms make more money. I understand, however we need to make sure that the Hounds do not suffer.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA CAO VENICE, FL 34293 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 4:19:41 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

The protection of Greyhounds is very important to me and I SUPPORT decoupling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA CAO VENICE, FL 34293 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 10:35:04 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please SUPPORT greyhound injury report and decoupling. Many track owners would like to see decoupling, since they are losing money being forced to have greyhound racing, which is not popular. Also the dogs need help. Stop the abuse of the greyhounds, report injuries, and do not force tracks to have greyhound racing when they do not want to.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRYAN WILSON WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708 Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 11:05:17 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please decouple live dog racing from other forms of gambling and require injury reporting at all greyhound tracks.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: IRENE CLARK SELF ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 23701 Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 12:08:12 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am supportive of injury reporting for greyhounds and for the decoupling law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORETTA LUCAS OCALA, FL 34476 Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 4:52:03 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support greyhound decoupling and injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATIE TEATER NAPLES, FL 34110
Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 7:04:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The FL Legislature needs to institute "greyhound decoupling" . Gambling institutions should not be forced to race dogs in order to provide other forms of gambling, including card games. Greyhound racing is inhuman and it should not be required to provide any other form of gambling. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA ROBERTS MYSELF VANCOUVER, OUTSIDEUS V5Y1L
Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 8:49:19 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is important to Florida: jobs, the gambling money it brings in (handle & attendance up in many of the tracks) and tourism. Please vote against decoupling greyhound racing.

I'm the proud owner of 2 retired racing greyhounds (my 3rd & 4th racing greyhounds that I have adopted). They make fantastic pets - a credit to their life on the track. I wish I lived nearer to a track so that I could go and see live greyhound racing. There is nothing more amazing than seeing these dogs do what they love and that is to run and race.

When the track in Oregon (Multnomah Greyhound Park) was open, we would drive 4 - 5x per year from Vancouver, BC, Canada to watch the greyhound races. We would make a holiday of it and spend 3 or 4 days there each time, staying in the hotels and eating in the restaurants. We had planned on a 2 week vacation in Oregon but sadly, the track closed that year and so we didn't visit Oregon that year.

In fact, we have not been to Oregon since. When we travel to the USA, we visit Washington and that's where our tourist dollars get spent. I'm sure greyhound racing is a part of many people's visits to Florida.

Please do everything you can to ensure greyhound racing thrives and don't decouple greyhound racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL BELLAVIA THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 9:07:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

My comments are related to the decoupling of Greyhound racing from gambling. Greyhound racing should be ended, it is cruel and many dogs suffer needlessly. Their injuries go unreported, I have seen to many that have broken legs that go without treatment and heal in distorted shape. They race in unbearable heat and humidity to stands that are almost empty, fall into the electrified rail, or into one another breaking legs, or worse, their necks.

I realize that ending racing may not be possible at this time, but decoupling it from gambling would be an important positive step in the right direction to helping these wonderful dogs, and would end the subsidy of dog racing gambling. Please also ensure that all racing injuries are reported so the dogs get the medical care they need.

Respectfully,
Carol bellavia

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL BELLAVIA THE VILLAGES, FL 32162 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 8:47:52 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to ask that the Commission support Decoupling Greyhound Racing from the other forms of gambling as well as support a Bill to require all injuries to Greyhounds be reported no matter how small.

Greyhound racing behind the scenes is very inhumane, dogs are put into kennels that restrict movement - some dogs are not even able to turn around in them. The dogs live in cramped quarters that reek of urine, only leave their kennels to eat and for turn out to relieve themselves on a schedule and to race. Would you want to live this way?

These dogs are sensitive and loving despite the treatment they receive at the hands of handlers who really could care less about them. They do not deserve this type of treatment, nor should they be forced to race and face potential broken legs and even electrocution.

The other request is to support Greyhound Injury Reporting, this is a very important piece of legislation as well!! Most injuries are swept under the carpet - need I remind you all of the horrific deaths at Ebro?? How about the electrocution of Raiders Uncle Mo at Sarasota? This to is critical to help save the lives of these gentle souls.

Please support both of these issues - Decouple Live Greyhound Racing and Greyhound Injury Reporting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Bellavia

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERESA FITZSIMMONS SELF- GREY 2K WILTON MANORS, FL 33305 Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 1:42:38 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Save greyhounds. Report injuries. Stop decoupling. Stop Greyhound Racing.. It is cruel and unjust!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DUSTIN CRANOR WILTON MANORS, FL 33305 Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 1:58:59 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement.

Also, please require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives. The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HEIDI COURVILLE NAPLES, FL 34108 Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 9:15:26 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

The humane treatment of greyhounds is very important to me, so I strongly support greyhound decoupling and mandatory injury reporting.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | GARY COURVILLE NAPLES, FL 34108 | Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 9:20:38 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Neither For nor Against |
| Don't need the dogs to run. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | PATRICK COURVILLE NAPLES, FL 34108 | Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 9:25:26 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Neither For nor Against |
| I support grey hound decoupling and mandatory injury reporting. Also Obama is a Muslim! | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SHELLEY JOHNSON N/A EDMONTON, CANADA, OUTSIDEUS T6J0A | Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 11:20:16 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | For Information Only |
| Hello. As an adopter of retired racing greyhounds it was a great pleasure to witness first hand the care and treatment of these hounds while they are on the track. Living in Canada, I had no preconceived ideas of what I would see in Florida. These dogs are well cared for, receive quality feed and race for their trainers with all their heart. Its very understandable to me why these dogs come to us in great condition. All of the trainers, staff in the kennels and workers at the track took the utmost care and pride in their jobs. I can not speak more highly of the whole greyhound racing industry in Florida. It would be a crime to change things... | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ELIZABETH CLIFTON ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33715 | Comments submitted: 11/2/2013 7:53:18 AM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Neither For nor Against |
| I support Decoupling and Injury Reporting. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MELISSA DURALIA WELLINGTON, FL 33414 | Comments submitted: 11/2/2013 12:45:13 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Against Expansion of Gaming |
| The humane treatment of greyhounds is important to you, and that you support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. | | |
| First, I would like to ask you to please pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. In addition to decoupling, I would like you to pass a law to require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives. | | |
| Please consider these two important greyhound protection measures. I would love if dog racing ended completely, but in the mean time, these two laws would be a huge improvement to racing dogs' lives! | | |
| Thank you kindly for taking the time to read this. And I do hope you consider what I've written! | | |
| Sincerely, Melissa | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: APRIL HOOVER
BONITA SPRINGS , FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/3/2013 6:38:41 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Dear Gaming Committee Members,

I am writing to ask that you support the passage of a decoupling bill this session! Every year "decoupling" is talked about and it never goes anywhere. A decoupling bill is long overdue for several reasons, but most importantly to me are: for the greyhounds. I think it's absurd that the law requires a minimal amount of days of greyhound racing to keep a pari-mutuel license! These dogs have to race in extreme heat and humidity when there are as few as one or two people in the stands, just to keep their license. It's ridiculous.

From a business standpoint, I think it's very unfair to the smaller tracks who have to compete with the larger tracks, who can absorb financial losses from having to comply with this antiquated law.

It's a win-win to pass a decoupling bill -- for the animals AND the tracks, who want it as well. The current law benefits the larger tracks, which is not fair to the smaller tracks struggling to survive. To be clear, I'm not crying when any of these tracks go out of business, but they should at least have a fair shot at succeeding and not be impeded by an antiquated law.

I respectfully ask that this session you work to pass a decoupling bill into law.

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES MCGINN
BONITA SPRINGS , FL 34135
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:56:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am writing to ask that you support a decoupling bill. I believe this bill is long overdue and it's my wish that you will pass a bill this legislative session.

I think it's a very antiquated law that greyhound dogs must be raced a minimal amount of times per year for a race track to keep their pari-mutuel license, even if nobody is in the stands, or if the weather is extreme heat and it's harmful to the dogs. Secondly, I don't think it's a level playing field for the tracks. The larger tracks can absorb the financial losses, if any, and the smaller tracks cannot. It's not fair to the smaller tracks from a business standpoint.

I also ask that you pass an injury reporting bill this session. States that have these laws have seen a huge decline in dog injuries!

It's a win-win to pass the decoupling law to level the playing field for the smaller tracks and to protect the racing greyhound dogs. Please pass a decoupling and injury reporting bill this session!

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RUSSELL ANDERSON
LADY LAKE, FL 32159
Comments submitted: 11/5/2013 10:27:56 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please pass the decoupling bill and end State mandated animal cruelty.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LARRY AND JOLENE SHAPIRO
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33418
Comments submitted: 11/6/2013 9:34:34 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

We are very much in favor of decoupling greyhound from gambling. The gamblers don't care about the actual racing and the dogs suffer greatly during their racing careers and often afterwards

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESLIE SARDINIA NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FL 33160 Comments submitted: 11/7/2013 11:48:33 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Against Expansion of Gaming Position:

To The Senate Committee on Gaming..

I have been a concerned citizen in regards to Greyhound Racing for many many years. When slots were on the ballot, I fought hard for it to fail, but it passed. Then I saw the decline in interest in betting on the dogs, everyone was happy just having the slot machines. That is wonderful, no interest in betting on the dogs, but now, it's mandatory for these establishments to keep the dogs even though they don't want them anymore.

The inhumane treatment of these greyhounds, needs to stop!

The greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury report is a MUST. There is no reason to continue a barbaric sport, at these gaming locations, if the owners don't want them there, but are FORCED to keep them, for no good reason. I ask you to look into the truths of greyhound racing, its torture for the animal, and Florida is no longer making money, it's losing money!

Please support the decoupling bill and injury reporting.

Thank you.. A Florida Tax Payer

Please tell the committee members that humane treatment of greyhounds is a priority for you and urge them to support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. I have attached the fact sheets to this email.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RONNIE POPLOCK NAPLES, FL 34108 Comments submitted: 11/8/2013 12:37:32 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) Against Expansion of Gaming Position:

I strongly support greyhound decoupling. The state should not force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another.

I also strongly support greyhound injury reporting. Florida is now only one of two states that do not publicly report injuries.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOAN CARNAHAN LADY LAKE, FL 32159 Comments submitted: 11/10/2013 7:52:46 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Neither For nor Against Position:

I support decoupling and injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHERRI RIGGS APOPKA, FL 32712 Comments submitted: 11/10/2013 9:06:03 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Neither For nor Against Position:

I support Decoupling and Injury Reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WARREN RIGGS APOPKA, FL 32712 Comments submitted: 11/10/2013 9:07:18 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Neither For nor Against Position:

I support Decoupling and Injury Reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JILL MIRANDA
NONE-MYSELF
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32217
Comments submitted: 11/11/2013 7:30:45 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am asking you to pass greyhound decoupling. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement. I am also calling on lawmakers to require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.
I am against Greyhound racing and decoupling. STOP IT NOW!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNA STOER
JACKSONVILLE , FL 32216
Comments submitted: 11/11/2013 3:13:40 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I want to express my opinion that I DO NOT SUPPORT Grey hound racing and I DO NOT WANT this to go on in my city. I wish that Grey hound racing would be stopped.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAIL WILSON
THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
Comments submitted: 11/11/2013 4:02:45 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling and injury reporting of racing greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CRAIG MAZER
ORLANDO, FL 32806
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:28:02 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives. As a Florida voter and someone who cares about the treatment of animals, I hope you will take this seriously. Ultimately, I would urge the state to ban all gambling activities that exploit animals, including all forms of racing that involve animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAIL WEBER
ARFF
WINTER PARK, FL 32793
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:29:17 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please do the morally correct thing and ban all Greyhound racing. It's cruel and in no way benefits these beautiful and gentle dogs.
Thankyou.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELSY SHALLMAN LOXAHATCHEE, FL 33470
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:32:14 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELSY SHALLMAN LOXAHATCHEE, FL 33470
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:30:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dear Sir/Madam:

Below find my points to why I support decoupling dog racing:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELSY SHALLMAN LOXAHATCHEE, FL 33470
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:42:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am asking the Gaming Committee to support greyhound decoupling, and I'm also asking lawmakers to support greyhound injury reporting. These issues are important to me because since 2004, state investigators have documented nine cases of severe neglect at tracks and associated kennel compounds. Also greyhounds have tested positive for serious drugs at FL racetracks, including cocaine.

Also terrible kennel conditions, injured dogs, and fire hazards.

Greyhounds dying in racetracks from a form of horse flu that had never before jumped species.

The unforgivable: State regulators have documented greyhounds being killed because they were no longer profitable.

Death of greyhounds while being transported to racetracks.

At racetracks greyhounds are fed the cheapest meat available so to reduce costs, while being exploited to race for money.

Expirations of vaccines

Because of the above I am asking the Committee to cast a humane vote for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VINCENT L OVIEDO, FL 32765
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:33:47 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

We urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling, also known as decoupling. Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save the lives of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KEVIN AND ROBIN TIERNEY
SELF
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32118
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:34:08 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please support the removal of any requirement that dog tracks host live racing. Dog racing is cruel and unnecessary. Please also require injury reporting for greyhounds. We need more decency in our society, not less. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA LAWRENCE
LANTANA , FL 33462
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:40:33 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA LAWRENCE
LANTANA , FL 33462
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:04:35 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop racing greyhounds! It should be illegal because the poor dogs suffer. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAN ATHERTON
ARFF
ORLANDO, FL 32807
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:46:15 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please consider legislation that will move Florida in a direction that uses other means than animals for gambling. I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NICOLE SCHUBERT
NONE
VENICE, FL 34293
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:48:33 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

END GREYHOUND RACING NOW!!
ANIMALS ARE NOT ENTERTAINMENT!!
GREYHOUNDS DESERVE A BETTER LIFE THAN BEING FORCED TO PERFORM.
THE YEAR IS 2013 AND IT IS PAST TIME TO ALLOW EXPLOITATION OF ANIMALS TO STAY LEGAL!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDY LOTZ ARFF DAVIE, FL 33314
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:48:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
I ask that you please support greyhound decoupling which would allow dog race tracks to offer other means of gambling without having to offer live dog racing. I also ask that you support the requirement to report greyhound injury to the public. Florida is one of two states that does not require this. These proposals are sensible and would help protect the dogs that are being used in racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILBUR PRAZER FORT LAUDERDALE , FL 33308
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:52:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Dear Public Representative,
I oppose the connection of race dogs to any gaming institution. The time has come to change this socially oppressive treatment of innocent animals.
Dog racing like bull fights are no longer socially acceptable forms of entertainment and should require separate conversations, rules and regulations that are separate from Florida Gaming rules and regulations.
Please vote on the dogs behalf, and that of our social compass.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIZABETH SUTTLE 33146
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:56:48 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)
As a voting citizen, I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives. Greyhounds have suffered enough and deserve to be given a break.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GISSELLE MENDOZA WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:58:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)
I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARLA GROSS POMPANO BEACH, FL 33062
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:58:32 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I urge you to support decoupling, the removal of the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling. Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NIECHELE GAMBILL MISS AUSTIN, TX 78717
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 1:59:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I urge your gaming commission to support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting in the state of Florida. These policies are important to ensure that the safety of greyhounds is first and foremost at the racinos and gaming establishments throughout the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter it is greatly appreciated.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA BOWER EARTHSERVE MIAMI MIAMI SPRINGS, FL 33166
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:01:09 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I am hereby requesting that you NOT require the tracks to have dog racing in order to offer other forms of gambling; and to make injury reporting mandatory for the greyhounds. These poor animals suffer so much. That is why there are rescue groups to try to place them into loving homes. Your attention to my request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Linda Bower

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEB DELSOLE TAMPA, FL 33624
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:02:47 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RONNIE LEVINE POMPAÑO BEACH, FL 33069
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:03:09 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT TO HOLD LIVE GREYHOUND RACING AT DOG TRACKS IN ORDER TO OFFER OTHER FORMS OF GAMBLING.
PLEASE REQUIRE REPORTING INJURIES TO THESE EXPLOITED ANIMALS. DO YOU WANT TO BE AS BACKWARD AS THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: K MURRAY ORLANDO, FL 32803
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:15:49 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please ensure that the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling) be removed. Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These actions will promote more humane standards, which are sorely lacking.
Thank you for your attention.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: K M ORLANDO, FL 32803 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please support decoupling of greyhound racing!
No matter what the breeders and others who profit from dog racing tell you, these animals suffer. Florida should join the 21st century and do away with medieval practices.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DR C A PATSDAUGHTER HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:22:19 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I urge you to support removing the requirement of decoupling greyhound racing in order for establishments to have other forms of gambling. Also, please vote to require greyhound injury reporting since Florida and Alabama are the only two states that do not have this requirement. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WENDY BRYAN MIAMI BEACH, FL 33140 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:26:39 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)
"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLENE INGLIS MRS. NOKOMIS, FL 34275 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:31:33 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SCOTT SANDERSON SARASOTA, FL 34233 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:38:35 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I would like the greyhounds taken care of. If you're going to use them for profit, please treat them fairly and allow them better living conditions. You can afford it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE VANHORN MS. DELAND, FL 32724 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:42:50 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I am writing to urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Dog racing is deplorable. To make a requirement of offering dog racing if offering other types of gambling just puts that many more dogs at risk. Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | PHYLLIS AND MORTON GUTMAN AARF BOCA RATON, FL 33434 | Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 2:52:40 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
| We support the elimination of Greyhound racing in the expansion of gaming. These animals have been abused enough and the gambling connected with them should be eliminated. We do support the expansion of all forms of gaming not including animals | | |

| | | |
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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DEBRA LIBBY WPB, FL 33470 | Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:05:17 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| We urge you to support the end of coupling! Which includes Greyhound racing!!! This is an inhumane and unnecessary act of gambling!! We also urge you to support the reporting of injuries! Thank You for your consideration! Debra Libby Consumer and Animal Advocate | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DEBRA LIBBY WPB, FL 33470 | Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:11:25 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| I appologize for the wrong termenology In my last message I meant decoupling! Debra Libby | | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JEAN DOWLING SELF WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33417 | Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:06:48 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| We need to protect the dogs used in Florida's racing industry by not requiring live racing in conjunction with other gambling. Injuries of these dogs must be reported to the public. Ghandi said that the way you judge a nation is by the way it treats it's animals. | | |

| | | |
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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARY CARPENTER MRS. AOPKA, FL 32703 | Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:09:33 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives. | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARISOL NORRIS ORLANDO, FL 32803
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:16:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling. Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARISOL NORRIS ORLANDO, FL 32803
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:34:53 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE JENKINS PALM BAY, FL 32909
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:20:06 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE JENKINS PALM BAY, FL 32909 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 10:39:19 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

? Greyhound racing is a dying industry, and now exists in only seven states. A majority (12 of 21) of all operational greyhound tracks in the United States are in Florida. In the state, the amount gambled at dog tracks declined by 72% between 1990 and 2013.

? Public opposition to greyhound racing is increasing due to humane concerns such as confinement and injuries. At Florida tracks, thousands of greyhounds are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, in small cages barely large enough for the dogs to stand up or turn around. Additionally, since 2004 state investigators have documented at least nine cases of severe neglect at Florida dog tracks and associated kennel compounds.

? The mandatory racing requirement forces greyhound tracks to offer live greyhound racing as a "loss leader" for other, more viable forms of gambling. This comes at a significant cost to both taxpayers and track operators, and conflicts with free market principles.

? Decoupling is not about whether greyhound racing should or should not be legal in Florida, but whether the state should force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another. This legislation does not expand gambling in any way.

? Since 1990 the amount of taxes collected by the state for live greyhound racing has declined by 98% from more than \$75 million in 1990 to less than \$2 million in 2012. In the same year, the state spent \$1.88 million on the regulation of live dog racing. Because regulatory costs now exceed the tax revenue from live racing, Florida is losing money on greyhound races.

This law will save greyhound lives. In the states where greyhound injury reporting laws have been approved, the number of greyhounds euthanized has significantly declined. For example, in Massachusetts the number of dogs euthanized declined by 43% in the first year after lawmakers passed an injury reporting bill. By the sixth year, the number of greyhounds euthanized had declined by 88%.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELLE TOMTER OCALA, FL 34482 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:20:24 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANCINE MEINELSCHMIDT NONE MIRAMAR, FL 33023 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:20:39 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhounds' lives.

PLEASE MAKE THE HUMANE, COMPASSIONATE DECISION!!!!!!

Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL SILVERTHORN OAKLAND PARK, FL 33309
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:28:43 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I urge you to drop the requirement that dog races must be held at dog tracks in order for them to provide other forms of gambling. I also believe that injuries to dogs from racing should be made public.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHERINE BOTELHO POMPANO BEACH, FL 33069
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:37:21 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RICHARD DALMAU MIAMI, FL 33183
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:47:05 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VIRGINIA GREENBLATT COOPER CITY, FL 33024
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 3:52:37 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I would like to respectfully request that you put support behind decoupling the racetracks. That is- that you allow these gambling areas to exist without live animals. I am a huge animal rights advocate. I have no issue with gambling but I do not think that they should have to have live dogs or horses to have slots lottery or other types of gambling on site. Also please ensure that the greyhounds injuries are reported to the public. Florida is one of the two states that does not do this and we have a right to know. Thank you. Virginia

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHRYN LOUISE ENTERPRISE, FL 32725
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 4:02:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY RICHARD LONGWOOD, FL 32750 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 4:11:34 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
It's time for Florida to end the requirement for live racing in order for other forms of gambling to be offered. I urge you to vote for decoupling. It's also time for Florida to pass laws that require reporting of injuries to racing greyhounds. Please, put the rights of these beautiful animals to the forefront and do the right thing!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MAURICE SAUNDERS DR. PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33954 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 4:28:12 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MAURICE SAUNDERS DR. PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33954 Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 1:48:55 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please end greyhound racing, it's very cruel.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHERRY FUDIM PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33418 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 5:58:25 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESLIE COOPER ARFF DAVIE, FL 33330 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 6:28:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please vote to eliminate requiring casinos to have greyhound racing. Greyhound racing is inhumane for the dogs entire life.
Further, please require greyhound tracks to report all dog injuries publicly. If the public was aware of the horrific injuries these dogs face, they certainly would boycott greyhound racing.
Thank you for your vote for the greyhounds!
Respectfully,
Leslie Cooper

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRIAN TURGEON GREY2K SPRING HILL, FL 34610
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 6:38:09 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives." GREY@K and its find staff and volunteers have tirelessly worked in Massachusetts for requirements like this and other measures successfully for the welfare and humane measures to not only inform the public about this "entertainment"but to educate what really happens to greyhounds when not in racing anymore. This is a very important step in the education and well being of these fine pets, please find favor in this bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TARA CROSS SHAKOPEE, MN 55379
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 7:14:09 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives!!!
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KARIN BENDER LIGHTHOUSE POINT, FL 33064
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 8:00:41 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

With regard to changes coming up in the States gambling laws, I request that you provide for protection of greyhounds by removing the requirement of live greyhound racing so slots or poker may be offered; Also, as in 48 other states, Florida should report greyhound injuries to the public.
I appreciate your consideration and concern for the well being of a gentle dog that suffers for the entertainment of unknowing gamblers. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TRACY MAROTTA MISS BROOKLYN, NY 11214
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 8:10:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
I live in Florida for years and I am sad that this form of "racing" continues.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATTI PACKER SCOTIA, NY 12302
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 8:19:41 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RICHARD PENDARVIS, PH.D. WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 8:46:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JACQUELINE ENGLISH FORT MYERS, FL 33907 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 8:51:33 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANKIE VAN HORN JR. HUMANE SOCIETY CANTONMENT, FL 32533 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 8:53:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
Please pass greyhound decoupling. Greyhounds should not die because some people like to gamble:((((((((((((

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIELLE ARFIN DELRAY BEACH, FL 33483 Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 9:24:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIELLE ARFIN DELRAY BEACH, FL 33483 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:42:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SCOTT EVANS
SCOTT EVAN PRODUCTIONS
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 10:00:28 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Support Decoupling by removing the requirement that dog tracks have to host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling. Also, please require full transparency by reporting injuries for greyhounds. These are No-Brainer, COMMON SENSE proposals that will save greyhound lives and end their horrible-torturous life-long confinement that u wouldn't even think of for your family pet.

Do the right thing and honor your constituents requests.

We gave you your job and it is your job to represent us, right? Right!

:) Scott Evans, Animal Advocate, Humanitarian, Business Man, Tax payer and your boss!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RUTH CASSIDY
MS.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33417
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 10:20:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

PLEASE Support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please Require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives. These Intelligent, Sensitive animals Deserve to be treated far better than what has been the norm, up to now!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBRA YOUNG
NAPLES, FL 34116
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 10:24:59 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."

Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORENZO DIAZ
M SEGRETO
HIALEAH, FL 33012
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 10:32:18 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELANIE MARSH
ORLANDO, FL 32826
Comments submitted: 11/12/2013 11:41:00 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I'm a proud supporter of table games and slots when it comes to gambling, but I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling).

Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The greyhounds thank you, too!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY DYCHE
1956
SARASOTA, FL 34239
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 6:23:53 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please vote for decoupling of Greyhound racing to keep the poker rooms running. Greyhound Racing is a cruel sport. Also, please pass that FL tracks have to keep and submit injury reports. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTY BOYER
MS.
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33069
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 8:33:47 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

PLEASE REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT DOG TRACKS HOST LIVE RACING SO THEY CAN OFFER OTHER TYPES OF GAMBLING. PLEASE REQUIRE INJURY REPORTING FOR GREYHOUNDS. It is an open door to cruelty to not require injury reporting...PLEASE!
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN GUNN
CONSTITUENT
LARGO, FL 33770
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 8:44:02 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

As a lifelong Florida resident and one who has seen first-hand the impact that gambling - in particular dog racing - has had on friends, family members, greyhound dogs, and the community at large, I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). It is also important that Florida law join other progressive open-information states, and require injury reporting for greyhounds. As the Sunshine State with the philosophy of open government and "sunshine laws" that affect all Florida residents, it is incumbent upon Florida to be a leader in this area.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA SHERIDAN
MCKINNEY, TX 75070
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 9:47:54 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."
PLEASE HAVE A HEART!!! PROTECT THESE PRECIOUS SOULS!!!
PLEASE SUPPORT greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting!
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN HSU
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33444
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 10:39:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CARLA SANDERSON SARASOTA, FL 34233 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 11:08:37 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

"I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. To see what happens to these beautiful creatures as they run circles around those race tracks and then how they are cared for until they stop "winning" is inhumane. I urge you to act accordingly and stop this nonsensical treatment of these gorgeous animals. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHY MERRITT VENICE, FL 34293 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 11:50:02 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

Please STOP requiring greyhounds racing must also be in place to provide gambling. These beautiful animals need a better life. Also, require injury reporting. I know many people who would enjoy gambling opportunities but refuse to go where there is greyhound racing.

Thank you,
Cathy Merritt

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAMELA KAPLAN AARF DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 12:34:48 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) Position: Neither For nor Against

Please help greyhounds, do not combine live racing with gaming. If people want to gamble fine, why should innocent dogs have to be abused for gambling?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHANNON OLLEK LARGO, FL 33773 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 1:02:17 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Also, please do not be swayed by those who try to tell you that jobs will be lost... that is the BIG LIE with regards to this issue. If anything, skilled and higher paying jobs could be created if card rooms and slot machines replace dog racing. It is a proven fact that many dog handlers are illegal aliens and/or felons... I am not much concerned with these "jobs". I am much more concerned with the lives of these gentle dogs, and so are the vast majority of working, voting, law abiding Floridians.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WALLENBERG SHARON DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446 Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 3:56:50 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

Please DECOUPLE gambling from Dog Racing. Please require that injuries to dogs be reported publicly. Dog racing is inhumane. if people want to gamble - that is their choice. The dogs do not have a choice in the cruelty they are forced to endure.

Please decouple dog racing from other gambling, and let dog racing end the way it has in other states.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON WALLENBERG
SELF
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 4:57:57 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please decouple dog racing from the other gambling. Dog racing is a cruel sport. If you will not end it completely, which is preferable, than at least make public the injuries suffered by these exploited dogs. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRANDI MCGRATH
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32224
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 4:47:15 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDY SKILLMAN
JR. HUMANE SOCIETY
CANTONMENT, FL 32533
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 8:35:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please remove the requirement that dog tracks host live racing to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also please require injury reporting for greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA MOST MORALES
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33445
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 10:05:17 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRAEBORNE BEHRGHUNDI
ESTERO, FL 33928
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 10:58:08 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I am urging the committee members to vote and enact decoupling to decrease abuse of animals by not promoting live racing in order to offer other gaming. I would also like consideration that Florida report greyhound injuries/accidents to the public. Humane gaming is pluses for all.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARYBETH DEVLIN
MIAMI, FL 33155
Comments submitted: 11/13/2013 11:37:04 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling -- removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling. I also favor requiring injury reporting for greyhound racing. Decoupling and injury-reporting are common-sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ELIZABETH SHULMAN PALM BEACH, FL 33480 | Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 5:14:09 AM |
| | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MICHELE SANDERS MRS. MELBOURNE, FL 32935 | Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 9:49:37 AM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |

Sir - The lives of greyhounds are not a game; they need our protection as brother beings. Please use your compassion in voting and Please support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives."

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | THERESA DENNIS FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32547 | Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 9:58:47 AM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |

I would like to respectfully request that Florida's lawmakers commit to decoupling greyhound racing from the other gambling currently taking place at the dog tracks in our state. We have been embarrassed by dog cruelty issues at these tracks and the owners need to have the freedom to chose to end this display in order to continue offering the services that the majority of people go to the tracks for. It is my greatest hope that Florida will one day soon join the 42 states that have already banned dog racing but I understand the need to take small steps to get there. Decoupling is the first step. Thank you.

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DONNA YARGER MELBOURNE, FL 32940 | Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 10:59:52 AM |
| | | Position: For Information Only |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling).
Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.
Thank you!

| | | |
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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | QUERIDA WALKER NONE DELTONA , FL 32725 | Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 2:01:28 PM |
| | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts) | | |

When it comes to greyhound racing please remove decoupling and require the reporting of greyhound injuries. This should help to increase profits for the state if other avenues of gambling do not require greyhound racing. This will also insure that the sport of greyhound racing continues in a humanly matter.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOMINICK BASIRICO DAVIE, FL 33331 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 2:44:56 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I'm writing because I want to SUPPORT the DECOUPLING of greyhound tracks. The state should not force these businesses to offer cruel dog racing which is NOT what attendees want. Let the tracks offer gaming that's popular today. And we need mandatory greyhound INJURY REPORTS.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA GRACE GULFPORT, FL 33707 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 7:46:48 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I am not against gaming. I am against using animal suffering for human entertainment. Two things might help move toward this goal. One is to decouple dog racing and gambling. That way people can participate in gaming but not at the expense of dog racing. The other is to report dog injuries to the public. People should be able to know how much animals suffer to bring them entertainment. I encourage you to do this. Call me if you want to discuss it. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIMBERLY MCCONNELL MARATHON, FL 33050 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 9:02:22 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

"I urge you to support greyhound decoupling and injury reporting. Please support the removal of the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). These are common sense proposals."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RENEE RIVARD THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS--FLORIDA CHAPTER Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 9:42:06 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The members of The League of Humane Voters-Florida Chapter would like to see the elimination of the greyhound racing industry because of the inhumane treatment that greyhounds must endure. Greyhounds are mass produced for the sole purpose of gambling entertainment. Greyhounds live a very short and inhumane life. When they are no longer profitable, the majority of greyhounds are euthanized. Please consider ending greyhound racing in the state of Florida. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIHELEN WHEELER GAINESVILLE, FL 32609 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 10:42:08 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

As an animal rights advocate, I do not support greyhound racing....it is a criminal act to inflict pain and suffering on these animals, especially with not accountability for loss. The average citizen is held responsible in dog and cock fighting and an industry subsidized by the state of Florida should not be in this business. If people want to play cards, so be it, but not under the guise of dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA LAPRESTI RIVERVIEW, FL 33569
 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 11:27:39 AM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

As a Florida resident and a member of The League of Humane Voters-Florida Chapter, I would like to see the elimination of the greyhound racing industry because of the inhumane treatment that greyhounds endure. Greyhounds are mass produced for the sole purpose of gambling entertainment. Greyhounds live a very short and inhumane life. When they are no longer profitable, the majority of greyhounds are euthanized. Please consider ending greyhound racing in the state of Florida. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAT HAWK CONCERNED CITIZEN REDDICK, FL 32686
 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 1:57:43 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TARA SPELLMAN BOCA RATON, FL 33431
 Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 8:38:28 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RAQUEL SOTO OCALA, FL 34474
 Comments submitted: 11/16/2013 10:32:01 AM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAIL BURGESS THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
 Comments submitted: 11/16/2013 4:05:53 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I SUPPORT DECOUPLING AND INJURY REPORTING!! Gail Burgess

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETSY COVILLE ALTERNATIVE ANIMAL CARE LUTZ, FL 33549
 Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 12:33:34 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

As a veterinarian, myself and my clients believe it is time for Florida to join the other humane states and eliminate greyhound racing in Florida. It is inhumane to the animals and no amount of revenue to our state can justify its continuance.
 Dr. Betsy R. Coville

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES SORRELLS GROVELAND, FL 34736

Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 2:12:33 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

As research studies become more and more advanced we are learning of the intelligence our fellow inhabitants of this planet possess. All God's creatures are precious and should be provided with a life of dignity and hope. From laboratories, to farms, to our personal residences, there must be zero tolerance for the abuse and cruel treatment of these sentient beings. It is time to stop turning the channel and ignoring the facts of what life is like for many of these animals. "Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight." ~Albert Schweitzer
 I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Sincerely
 James Sorrells

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN MILLER WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787

Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 5:16:38 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please ensure that laws are not changed to negatively impact Greyhounds. These beautiful creatures are often treated cruelly.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CONSTANCE ADAMS DUNNELLON, FL 34432

Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 7:29:52 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN KUDIA PRIVATE CITIZEN ANTHONY, FL 32617

Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 10:57:09 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please stop greyhound dog racing....let people gamble and play poker etc but not involve dog racing...I could be wrong but I think Florida is one of the last State to allow this type of abuse to greyhound dogs.

Thank you,
 Karen D. Kudia
 Anthony Florida

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHRYN TAUBERT DU, FL 34432

Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 6:52:17 AM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLOTTE TRENTELMAN ANTHONY, FL 32617
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 7:35:48 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support The Greyhound Decoupling Bill, and the Greyhound Injury Report Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANICE HASTINGS MADTA REDDICK, FL 32686
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 11:56:13 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN STEVENS WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 1:31:23 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please remove the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling).
Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds.
Think of your own pets. Wouldn't they deserve as much?
Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA MAYS JUPITER, FL 33458
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 1:51:16 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN HARPENAU JUPITER, FL 33458
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 2:49:15 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANE CARLOUGH-MELINE SELF JUPITER, FL 33458
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 3:24:58 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please discontinue greyhound racing as it is inhumane. We adopted a retired racer 3 years ago and she still carries emotional and physical scars.
Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLIFF WELLES
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 3:47:44 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I live within 2 miles of the Greyhound track in Bonita. It's been there for 50 years and creates NO crime of which I'm aware. We need the jobs and attraction in our area, so I'm supporting expansion, but see no reason to couple gaming expansion with the number of dog races. That's like requiring more laps in a swimming pool to allow an adjacent golf course near the clubhouse.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAOLA RUIZ
RIVERVIEW, FL 33578
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 7:21:12 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

As a Florida resident and a member of The League of Humane Voters-Florida Chapter, I would like to see the elimination of the greyhound racing industry because of the inhumane treatment that greyhounds endure. Greyhounds are mass produced for the sole purpose of gambling entertainment. Greyhounds live a very short and inhumane life. When they are no longer profitable, the majority of greyhounds are euthanized. Please consider ending greyhound racing in the state of Florida. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALEXIS DURHAM
SAFETY HARBOR, FL 34695
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 10:06:30 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am writing to express my support for putting an end to greyhound racing in the state of Florida. As we have learned more about the welfare of animals, and as other states have phased out their greyhound racing, it is time that Florida puts an end to this long-standing and unfortunate entertainment practice. Surely in this day and age Floridians and our most welcome visitors can find so many other things to do to entertain themselves. We are fortunate in Florida to have such an abundance of entertainment options. It is time to get on the right side of history and leave greyhound racing behind.

Thank you for reading my comment.
Sincerely,---
Alexis Durham

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL GREGORIA
DELAND, FL 32724
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:07:28 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT GREYHOUND DE-COUPLING...AND ALSO URGE YOU TO ENSURE THAT ALL INJURIES ARE DOCUMENTED AND REPORTED...THIS IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF GREYHOUNDS.
THANK YOU.
CAROL GREGORIA

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL GREGORIA DELAND, FL 32724
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:11:51 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

PLEASE, PLEASE STOP HARMING THE GREYHOUNDS! THANKS TO THE INTERENT, WE ARE ALL AWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE GREYHOUNDS AND WILL NOT STOP EXPOSING THE CRUELTY UNTIL IT HAS TOTALLY BEEN ELIMINATED.

I AM SHOCKED THAT ANY PERSON WOULD INFLICT SUCH PAIN TO AN INNOCENT, LOVING DOG....SHAME ON YOU.
C.GREGORIA

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA HELBIG MIAMI, FL 33157
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 2:32:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill and the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN GLIDEWELL OVIEDO, FL 32765
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:51:03 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please put a stop to animal cruelty and stop dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDLEY PAXTON BARDEN PENSACOLA, FL 32526
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:51:44 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAIL TAFT CORAL GABLES, FL 33146
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:51:48 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please move to decouple greyhound racing from other types of gambling. It is a dying sport and the dogs endure confinement and suffering for no reason but the entertainment of a few fans. It must stop now.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LILIAM SABIN PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33029 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:52:23 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: COURTNEY GEORGIEV NORTH PALM BEACH, FL 33408 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:52:27 PM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE MORIN JACKSONVILLE, FL 32246 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:52:29 PM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

o express your support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANA MASLOW NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:53:03 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

SUPPORT OF decoupling of greyhound racing. WE MUST STOP ABUSING ANIMALS!!!!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | BETTY MOORE FORT MYERS, FL 33966 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:53:03 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. •You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. •Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. <p>Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LAURA KUZMA PALM HARBOR, FL 34683 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:53:46 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: For Information Only |
| <p>The law requiring dog racing to be present at a gambling facility needs to be over turned. There is no need to Greyhounds to continue their suffering.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JAMES CAROLAN PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33418 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:55:01 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| <p>Stop greyhound racing in the state of florida.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | FELICIA VULETICH 1964 LIVE OAK, FL 32060 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:55:18 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| <p>Please consider decoupling dog racing from all other forms of gambling.</p> | | |

| | | |
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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CANDACE LUFFMAN OCALA, FL 34479 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:55:33 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| <p>PLEASE STOP THIS RACING AT ONCE, IT IS VERY HARD ON ALL GRAYHOUNDS HEART. THIS HAS TO STOP NOW.</p> | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERICA TRICARICO PARKLAND, FL 33067
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:55:46 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am for the expansion of gaming HOWEVER I am writing this to express my support for decoupling of greyhound racing. Myself and my boyfriend love to gamble and visit casinos but I am against forcing these dogs to race and be tortured due to the fact that is is mandatory to have racing to have a casino. I will not visit a casino that has greyhound or horse racing. thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TIMOTOHY BROHAWN DELRAY BEACH, FL 33445
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:56:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am highly dissappointed to hear of the Florida law which requires dog racing at gaming facilities. This is baffling to me. I encourage you to support stripping this requirement from the law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHELSEA KAJS BOCA RATON, FL 33432
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:56:14 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please stop greyhound racing. It is abusive and harmful to the animals involved. It is sad greyhound racing still exists and is required in conjunction with other forms of gambling. Please stop the abuse now!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIANA STANTON MIAMI, FL 33155
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:56:29 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please support decoupling of greyhound racing.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DORETTA MILLER CLEARWATER, FL 33755
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:56:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

save the greyhounds stop requiring gaming institutions to keep to licsence that they to race the dogs it makes no sense.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEIRA PAGAN KISSIMMEE, FL 34746 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:56:57 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Neither For nor Against
I am in favor of decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling—

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA PANOULIAS INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FL 33785 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:57:01 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) Against Expansion of Gaming
Stop greyhound racing! The animals are treated inhumanely.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARCY BERNSTEIN MARGATE, FL 33063 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:57:04 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Against Expansion of Gaming
No more Grayhound racing.....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GWEN MCCARTHY PALM COAST, FL 32164 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:57:06 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

OK -- dog racing is a relic of the past that we can not seem to rid ourselves of -- kind of like bull fighting. Both are cruelty in different forms. Let's eliminate this form of gambling and let people just go use slots. I am from California and after living in Florida in the summers for my retirement, I really wonder how we can even come close to justifying racing dogs in the HOT SUMMERS here! What a human disgrace!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STACEY RAYBURG JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:57:19 PM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) Against Expansion of Gaming

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Please consider my view and the view of many others who oppose this cruel practice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALLISON FARR
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:57:31 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

I support decoupling for dog racing, I am totally against dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALLISON FARR
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689
Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 11:18:25 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

end greyhound racing, it is not sport or entertainment, it is cruel, stop decoupling it too.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIZABETH SCRIBE
LEHIGH, FL 33974
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:57:46 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

End greyhound racing!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA BRUCE
ESTERO, FL 33928
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:58:02 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARAH HOAG
NAPLES, FL 34104
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:58:03 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please decouple the greyhound racing from the current gambling bill that requires racing to be offered.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KELLEY MADDEN JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:58:12 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

My comments today are in support of the "de-coupling" regulation changes that are being considered by the committee to allow gambling establishments in Florida to continue offering gaming without the necessity to operate a Greyhound track in conjunction with their other onsite gaming.

I am opposed to the continued cruelty to the animals that is inflicted by this dying sport. These animals are often confined for their short racing life and in more cases than not are destroyed when they are no longer able to race. In today's society it is an intolerable sport. Please recommend changes to the existing restrictions forcing gambling venues to continue running this cruel and inhumane sport.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DORIS RIORDAN SUNRISE, FL 33326
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:58:14 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop dog racing...it's so cruel to the dogs who are subjected. Thank you, Dori Riordan

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA DAVIDSON WELLINGTON, FL 33414
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:59:01 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: INGRID ANDERSON CLEARWATER, FL 33759
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:59:11 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Animals were not met to be used for our amusement. do not expand gaming involving animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GRACE JOHNS MYSELF COOPER CITY, FL 33026
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:59:12 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I understand that Florida State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This requirement needs to be removed so that businesses do not have to operate Greyhound tracks. This is not an efficient way to promote our economic wellbeing or the wellbeing of these racing dogs. The decision to operate Greyhound tracks should be independent of the decision to operate more humane ways of gambling. Please decouple this law. It will improve our communities and reduce the pain and suffering inflicted on racing dogs.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

ELIZABETH WELLINGS
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 3:59:19 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

I strongly support the decoupling of greyhound racing.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Please respect these animals. We should not be able to do with them as we please. They are our family.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

MARISSA GARONE
JUPITER, FL 33478

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 3:59:34 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Against Expansion of Gaming

Please do not allow for dog racing or any gambling on animals such as cock fighting which is soooo cruel and unnecessary.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I disagree with dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day stuck in cages where they receive hardly any veterinary care and who knows what for food.

Greyhound racing is an industry loosing interest since more and more people learn of the truths and horrors and oppose it. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Please do all you can to see that the dogs are treated humanely and placed into loving homes!

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

CARMEN RODRIGUEZ
WINDERMERE, FL 34786

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 3:59:44 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

I am totally against the dog racing activity. It is cruel as these dogs aren't treated humanely! It is a shame that the Senate knowing this still permits it because the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain it. It is also a shame that Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists. Do what is right and stop the suffering of the dogs. Thanks.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEB KOBRES NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 3:59:46 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling the dog racing industry from other forms of gambling. The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitative form of entertainment. Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAMILLE GILBREATH MIAMI, FL 33157 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:00:01 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am definitely FOR stopping dog racing. To torture dogs just so there can be slots etc is disgusting. Please decouple this.... Let these dogs have a better life... Dogs are wonderful creatures.... remember DOG is GOD spelled backwards..

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SONDRA RODGERS SELF SPRING HILL, FL 34606 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:00:34 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop the use of beautiful greyhound dogs for the purpose of any gambling. They are over-bred, the extras not of good racing material are put down. The greyhound rescue groups are over-burdened by too many dogs to rescue... The whole practice is barbaric. Even the racers lead a caged and stagnant life! Please stop greyhound racing!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TYLER LOONEY TAMPA, FL 33647 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:00:44 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please end the expansion of dog racing. However, I am in favor of more table games at the casinos. Only in the case of animal cruelty am I against gaming. Please keep this in mind while casting the vote.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CHRISTOPHER CONRAD PALM BAY, FL 32907 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:00:49 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: For Information Only |

Please stop dog racing in Florida.
It has no place in today's society. It is cruel to a great and gentle dog breed - especially after their usefulness in racing is finished.
There are too many good dogs without homes - this adds to the problem.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LISSETT MORAGUEZ TAMPA, FL 33625 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:00:50 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Please support decoupling of greyhound racing!

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

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|---|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SUSAN STAVROS ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:01 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: For Information Only |

Do the Right Thing! End Greyhound Racing NOW! Stop the horrible abuse these animals suffer!!
RACE CARS not DOGS or HORSES!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ARLENE NARANJO GAINESVILLE, FL 32608
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:01 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to express my support for decoupling of dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

In addition, and more importantly, I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Once this mandate is removed through decoupling, dog racing will be reduced substantially and thousands of dogs will be freed from constant confinement and suffering.

Another reason to decouple is that greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. It is time for Florida to get with the times, decouple dog racing, and help free thousands of greyhounds from misery at the dog track.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALBA GLORSKY LAKE WORTH, FL 33460
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:12 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

No more dog racing.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved.

More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EARLENE HIPPLER OCALA, FL 34481
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:14 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support decoupling and oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined in small cages. I'm opposed to making dogs race in order to allow slot machines just makes no sense! Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. This will not save the industry. Please help.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA GRIFFIN HOLLYWOOD, FL 33019
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:19 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Save our best friends from suffering, as they would die to save you....

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CYNTHIA SCHUMANN EUSTIS, FL 32736
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:31 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA REGUERA PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33024
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:35 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

This is to request that dog racing be removed from the gaming facilities. It is an exploitation and inhumane what the greyhounds endure during their use racing. They are kept in confinement of small cages for an extensive amount of time with little to no socialization and with no proper veterinary care. I for one do not entertain nor visit any gaming facilities that hold dog or horse racing. It has become a taboo in many states and it is sad to see that FL is still a culprit in this sort of activity. We, as humans, should be compassionate and rectify the many years of wrong done to greyhounds. To use an animal for profit and discard once the animal is no longer useful is a norm of greyhound racing and it is appalling. Please take a moment to lend your support in decoupling dog racing. Let's set them free of a miserable existence and let them live as God intended. There is no need for this and only benefits those with already deep pockets. Don't let those in the business rule the majority vote into continuing this cruel form of entertainment. Show the communities at large that you have a morale to uphold and defend what is right. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE BEACH ANYONE WITH COMPASSION! KEY LARGO, FL 33037
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:01:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I implore you to end this silly connection between gambling and greyhound tracks. It is stupid and you are supporting the murder of thousands of beautiful animals each year by keeping this ridiculous rule in effect. Please do something that will not only be heavily supported by humans with a heart but also because it is the right thing to do!! If people want to gamble away their kids college funds, so be it, but please not at the expense of living creatures.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HILARY POWELL MIAMI, FL 33179
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:02:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please acquire some form of a conscience and put an end to the requirements on gambling establishment regarding dog racing. Thousands of INNOCENT dogs are being affected. Don't be a heartless piece of shit, change the law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KELLY LOVE HSNC SPRING HILL, FL 34608
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:02:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop the greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENISE STANTON PETS & US COCOA BEACH, FL 32931
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:03:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

SAVE THE GREYHOUNDS

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VAIDA MALECKAITE DR. ROCKLEDGE, FL 32955
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:03:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racetracks = animal abuse. Please do the right thing and do away with these relics of medieval entertainment.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEYLA RICHERT PALM CITY, FL 34990
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:03:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Stop the cruelty of the greyhounds!!! How would like to put your children in cages and then make them run in the heat??? You wouldn't like it would you? What makes you think it is right to allow those animals to suffer for the sake of a buck? isn't that evil? don't you people have any mercy? Please make the State of Florida stop the dog racing and cock fighting and hunting the poor deer etc. all the sports where the animals get hurt please!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROSMARIE BERGHAHN INDEPENDENT EUSTIS, FL 32736 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:04:04 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) Against Expansion of Gaming
Greyhound Racing is a crime against the animal. they are treated inhumanely and with cruelty.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NASHA PISANO HIALEAH, FL 33012 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:04:05 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Against Expansion of Gaming
Please stop the racing of Greyhounds :(poor animals!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIE BAUMAN N/A SANFORD, FL 32771 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:04:14 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

Hello, I am writing to the Gambling Impact Study today to express my concern and disgust regarding dog racing industry in Florida. Dog racing is a dying industry, and with good reason. It is inhumane, and the people who run these tracks have been unable to do so in a way that allows the animals to feed properly fed and taken care of. There are many political reasons why the gaming industry is lobbying to allow dog races to continue. But when is Florida going to do the right thing, like so many other States have already?

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I vehemently oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry, it just contributes to animal cruelty and continues to add to Florida's bad reputation nationally. I love Florida and I want to be proud of our legislative decisions. Dog racing needs to end now.

Sincerely,
Julie E. Bauman, Esq.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBORAH DOWLING ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33704 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:04:34 PM Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) For Information Only

Regarding decoupling of Dog Racing at venues that offer any type of gambling:

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JACQUE MITCHELL MYSELF AND ASPCA TALLAHASSEE, FL 32309 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:05:04 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

Please stop gaming with Greyhounds. This is a practice that needs to stop now. These dogs are thrown into a sad life, which is brought about by the people that gamble at these establishments. I can't think of any good that comes from gambling. The animals suffer and many of the people suffer from a compulsive disease and even if they don't, many of their families suffer from the waste of the money that could meet their needs instead. Save these poor defenseless creatures from this cruel life.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: IVONNE ZANI LAUDERHILL, FL 33319 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:05:12 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I want to let you know of my support for decoupling of greyhound racing. I know that the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo. These are the problems:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

PLEASE LISTEN AND FREE THESE POOR DOGS !!!!!!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOROTHY BIENEN WELLINGTON, FL 33414 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:05:34 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop the racing of these beautiful greyhounds.....once and for all...there is no point in it.....stop it now! DRB

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PEGGY KIDD BELLEVIEW, FL 34420 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:05:37 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Need to decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Need to stop dog racing altogether!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDSAY GUESSFORD DESTIN, FL 32541 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:05:44 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

We should not force businesses to have greyhound racing. Many people do not support it and the state shouldn't force it. Allow for other types of gambling but let the dogs get some rest.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALICIA WOZNIAK NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:06:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

To Whom It May Concern:

I've learned my great state requires casinos to also have Greyhound racing? I also understand Greyhound racing is a dying sport and benefits no one except the breeders? None of this makes sense to me. The casinos lose money. The dogs are made to work and not treated well. Only the breeders benefit.

My pooch is part Greyhound. When she runs free and at full speed, my heart is happy for her. She sleeps on the couch and goes outside on purpose to get a treat when she comes back in whether she's "done" anything outside or not. My heart goes out to the dogs at the track in St. Pete that I've driven past hundreds of time. When I see someone at the dog park with a Greyhound, I ask if it's a rescue. Most times the answer is "yes." I wonder how many dogs aren't rescued? I hope my great state will do away with greyhound racing. If people want to gamble away their hard earned cash at tables and slots, fine, but don't make the pooches suffer.

Sincerely,
Alicia "Woz" Wozniak

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: D AUER ORLANDO, FL 32825
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:06:31 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Stop RACING GREYHOUNDS - Should be against the law!
Think of the animals for a change!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHIE POOLE MELBOURNE, FL 32904
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:07:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
 - I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
 - Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
- Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GWEN PURSELL PALM HARBOR, FL 34683 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:07:57 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable.

Once this mandate is removed through a process called "decoupling," dog racing will be reduced substantially and thousands of dogs will be freed from constant confinement and suffering.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETSY MCCLAIN LONGWOOD, FL 32779 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:08:14 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHANIE CONTRADA PALM COAST, FL 32137 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:08:19 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

It has come to my attention that Florida is one in only 7 states that allows dog racing to take place. It is a cruel, inhumane practice that has no place in our society. These helpless animals suffer and are forced to race, leading a painful and short life and are often "discarded" after they sustain an injury or are no longer able to run anymore. They deserve a good life as do all living, feeling creatures do! Please outlaw dog racing at once. Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RE RASCHE GAINESVILLE, FL 32608 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:08:42 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NICOLE BRYAN HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:08:43 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I would like to express my heartfelt belief that we should decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: THERESA MILLSAP ASPCA TAMPA, FL 33609
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:08:49 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am especially against the use of dogs in gaming. Greyhounds live a horrendous life while racing and only a few are lucky enough to find forever homes after they are unable to preform.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROSE JIMENEZ MIRAMAR, FL 33029
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:09:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound dogs suffer tremendously due to the racing industry.

I support decoupling & ask you to please move in that direction as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROSE SEVERANCE ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33541
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:09:50 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please rethink greyhound racing. It is a cruelsport and not necessary to raise money for gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBBIE MUSGROVE LIVE OAK, FL 32060
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:10:05 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling. I am against cruelty to animals. Free the greyhounds!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESLIE ELCOCK DAVENPORT, FL 33837
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:10:32 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop the dog racing and cruelty

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GALE CARTER
BRADENTON BEACH, FL 34217
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:11:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

WE don't need more exploitation of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMANDA OSBORNE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:02 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY SMART
WINTER PARK, FL 32792
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:44 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please change the law to decouple dog racing from gambling, so gambling establishments are not required to race dogs in order to continue in business. Dog racing is an industry that is brutal to the dogs, and most dog races would be discontinued if gambling establishments were not required to keep them going to meet Florida's requirements. PLEASE CHANGE THIS. Just remove the requirement of dog racing.

Since I moved to Florida 8 years ago, one of the things I have admired about the state is the way it takes seriously, and treats seriously, the abuse of animals. It's treats abuse of animals as a criminal offense, and yet dog racing is abusive of the dogs involved.

I do not support or oppose gambling -- I don't really care about it one way or the other. But I am one of many Floridians who do care about animals. Please eliminate the dog racing requirement for gambling establishments to continue in business. This is one of those things whose day is long past.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON STAMM
FT PIERCE, FL 33945
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

We need to do away with dog tracks. It is very harmful to the animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: S TR
ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERNED CITIZEN
MIAMI, FL 33156
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:47 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

GREYHOUNDS ARE LIVING CREATURES. THEY SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO THIS ENVIRONMENT OF RACING. PLEASE STOP THE CRUELTY! STOP THE ABUSE! PLEASE HELP! They deserve a better life!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VALERIE BAILEY MRS. YULEE, FL 32097
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Please help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cage.
Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA PERRIGOUÉ MS. REDINGTON BEACH, FL 33708
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Do what is right for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELLE INERE PENSACOLA, FL 32507
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:49 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET MORAN - TACKMAN ORLANDO, FL 32822 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:51 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHAN BANCROFT PALATKA, FL 32177 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:57 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Decouple dog tracks from other gambling establishments....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN BERNSTEIN CASSELBERRY, FL 32707 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:58 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Support decoupling of gambling to help reduce and eventually eliminate Greyhound racing in Florida. Dogs should not be subjected to these substandard conditions. It is cruel and inhumane.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EVELYN WHITAKER ROCKET ANGEL ITALIAN GREYHOUND RESCUE CAPE CORAL , FL 33993 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:59 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please, please stop allowing Greyhounds to be used in racing. They are such gentle loving creatures , and I have seen first hand their suffering, from lack of love and care, affection and a decent diet, all the way to the cruel treatment , abuse and general lack of respect for a fellow creature .

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESLIE RAY MELBOURNE, FL 32901 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:12:59 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling for the following reasons:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | GEORGINA ESCOBAR MIAMI, FL 33145 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:01 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Dogs should not be made to run just for the same of gambling. Dogs are SENTIENT beings, it is cruel and should be eliminated entirely!!!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARABETH FARMER MRS. APALACHICOLA, FL 32320 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:01 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Greyhound racing needs to stop in Florida. I am not only against it, but I believe that we need to make it against the law. I have seen the dogs that are raced, and know the stories of abuse, have walked into a warehouse where dogs were kept in wooden crates between races without water or food. These crates are unsanitary. The sound you hear is their whimpering. I have volunteered at a rescue for greyhounds in NH and I know the "business." It is a case of clear cruelty to animals, and Florida needs to stop this type of gaming as soon as possible. Write the law and lobby to get it passed. I would hope that anyone who represents me would work diligently to stop this form of gambling!

Marabeth Farmer
Apalachicola, Florida

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DEREK RAYNOR BRANDON, FL 33511 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:02 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Stop the greyhound tracks!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SHARON SHORE CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33065 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:05 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I am voicing my support for decoupling of greyhound racing for the following:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MADISON HALL TAMPA, FL 33629 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:05 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: Neither For nor Against |

Please decouple dog racing. Greyhound racing is in humane and not very profitable and should desist in the good state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMIE ROUSSEL BEVERLY HILLS, FL 34465
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:06 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Please recommend that the Florida Legislature change the law requiring businesses offering any type of gambling to also operate Greyhound tracks. The requirement just makes no sense and must be changed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHEN DICKSTEIN CLERMONT, FL 34711
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing from this issue. I know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.

However, the following points are important to note:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

In short, dog racing is an industry of animal cruelty and should be shut down forever! Regardless of the gaming issue, animal cruelty should never be condoned. Help end greyhound racing today!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANCES SIEGEL EL PORTAL, FL 33150
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:17 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

STOP THE RACING OF GREYHOUNDS. Allow gaming but stop the Greyhounds racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MITZI CARR ORLANDO, FL 32819 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:27 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please be advised that I am in support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts PAIN and ABUSE on these innocent dogs and does NOT benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to SMALL CAGES where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of STATES THAT CONDUCT RACING FROM 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. Continuing or Increasing Dog suffering and cruelty is NOT going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA COHEN TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:35 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Hello,

I have worked with the GoldCoast Greyhound rescue group for 5 years now. I have rescued 2 greyhounds myself. I have seen close up what happens to greys who do not get rescued. I have seen what many of them look like when they come off the track. My female grey has a broken tail and a huge scar on her back. My male grey had an infection that nearly cost him his life. We have paid dearly to keep them alive.

Please decouple this horrible sport and stop greyhound racing in Florida. Many of the owners are good but there are many who are not and it is a crime against greyhounds -- the injustice they are put thru. greys are good natured and will do anything they are told. my mail was testosteroned heavily to make him run faster and he is afraid of his own shadow. any loud noise and he cowers. he won't even go thru a turn style when we take him to the doggie bark in the park baseball days.

this is indicative of so many greys. please decouple this sport. there are other ways of gambling in this state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIKA DIAZ TAMPA, FL 33616 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:13:45 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Free the greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

PATRICIA WILLIAMS
BOCA RATON, FL 33486

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 4:14:20 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

I am in favor of decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

JUDITH ZUFI
CORAL GABLES, FL 33156

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 4:14:20 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

JUDY MARTI
SAN MATEO, FL 32187

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 4:14:44 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WHITNEY EVERS ORLANDO, FL 32818
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:14:50 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please DECOUPLE GREYHOUND RACING FROM CASINOS.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIAN REES JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:14:57 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Against Expansion of Gaming
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Greyhounds should not be part of gambling - that's why I support decoupling Let these dogs live out their years not in cages.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HEATHER WOLFE MS. MAITLAND, FL 32751
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:15:02 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Against Expansion of Gaming
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please ban all forms of gaming involving animals. It is traumatic for the dogs, horses and all others involved.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIZ NORTHCOTT SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:15:14 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) For Information Only
Position: For Information Only

I am asking the Senate Committee on Gambling to please consider banning greyhound racing in Florida. Florida is one of the few states that still is involved with this very cruel practise. The majority of Floridians never go near a greyhound track and would find it very cruel, especially the abuse that the dogs endure. It is an outdated form of sport and gambling and should be very seriously looked at.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER QUIROZ DOG RACING DECOUPLING MIAMI, FL 33183
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:15:20 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Against Expansion of Gaming
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please stop greyhound racing. It's animal abuse.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAELA FAZECAS OVIEDO, FL 32765
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:15:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Regarding dog racing in FL, it is a "sport" that needs to be banned and here are just some of the reasons:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM BAIN CAPE CORAL, FL 33914
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:15:50 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop dog racing. It doesn't bring in any revenue to the State and probably lowers it. I like closer to Naples but will never go to their gaming rooms because of the cruel dog racing. Which means I have to drive over an hour and of course that keeps me away more than I would like.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: QUIDA JACOBS MIAMI BEACH, FL 33141
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:16:20 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to express my support for decoupling dog racing from other methods of gambling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SALLY JOHNSON BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33436
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:16:32 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please separate gambling from greyhound dog racing. These gentle giants deserve a better life than chasing a rabbit around an oval and being caged in between time. Their mistreatment is inexcusable, abusive and offensive!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA CARLANO
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:17:07 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against the numerous dog tracks in the state of FL. This is an abuse of the greyhounds and we need to start closing them for the health & safety of these animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHLEEN PARNELL
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:17:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please stop the dog racing, there are not enough protections for the dogs and it is not that profitable. Thanks you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGARET HOWELL
MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:18:20 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop the use of greyhounds and horses for fun and gambling....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SABINE PETERS
MRS.
BABSON PARK, FL 33827
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:18:20 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

To Whom It May Concern:

"Greyhound racing is a dying sport—but it's not dying fast enough in Florida, which is home to 12 tracks. Even though dog racing is generally not profitable, it persists in Florida because of a strange state law that requires businesses offering any type of gambling to also operate Greyhound tracks. Some of these companies don't even want to continue to offer dog racing—your state government is making them.

Once this requirement is removed through a process called "decoupling," dog racing will be reduced substantially in your state. Thousands of dogs will be freed from constant confinement and suffering. " ASPCA

I ask you to please consider "decoupling" the above mentioned requirement to ban dog racing once and for all. It is incredibly cruel, the dogs are suffering and they are not even provided with the help that they need.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sabine Peters

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BILL GILLHESPY
PRIVATE
FORT MYERS BEACH, FL 33931
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:18:50 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please decouple dog racing from associated gambling activities.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIBEL PILOTO MIAMI, FL 33135 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:19:03 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I would like to implore the Senate Committee on gaming to PLEASE remove the requirement that makes it necessary for gambling facilities to also operate greyhound tracks. Greyhound dogs suffer horribly in racing operations and are then left in shelters or worse when they can no longer produce money. Continuing to require that gambling facilities run greyhound tracks ensures that these poor dogs will continue to be abused. As far as I'm concerned, using animals like this is no better than dog fighting. I have no issue with gambling in Florida and feel that if adults want to gamble that's fine - I just don't want think it is ethically or morally right for us to do it at the cost of animals. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY HARVEY MIAMI, FL 33155 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:19:29 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I wish to support DE-COUPLING of dog racing from other forms of gambling. •Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. The time for dog racing has passed. Let the dogs be dogs and be free of human needs to exploit.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARCIA BAILEY NONE DUNEDIN, FL 34698 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:19:35 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I know of several rescued Greyhound dogs, and I know the treatment they received while they were racing was less than humane. Let's stop this racing of dogs. It results in a lot of cruelty.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TITA OWRE SARASOTA, FL 34233 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:20:15 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling. Greyhound racing is a cruel sport and it is an embarrassment for the state of florida. In addition, making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Dogs are being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RUTH ANN WIESENTHAL-GOLD PALM BAY, FL 32907
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:20:28 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Thank you for your consideration of the input of the public on this issue.
I am writing to ask that you begin the process of decoupling. There is no need justifying the demand of any gambling business also provide dog racing.
Dog racing is arcane, barbaric, actually, and a form of abuse that the state of Florida should stop. The dog racing lobby paid its share, dogs suffered and now it is time for enlightened thinking.
You can encourage tourist dollars by advertising that Florida is working to stamp out dog abuse in any form. That will most assuredly make a difference. How we treat our animals tells the world how we treat humans as well. Why not embrace Florida being a better state?
Why not allow gambling to expand, to give people options, not unlike, say, Atlantic City, that does not also require animals to be mistreated?
Again, thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARUAN KITNER DAVIE, FL 33328
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:20:44 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES BURKLEO FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33305
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:21:03 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Help stop the abuse of Greyhounds by voting in favor of decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling.
Greyhound racing promotes the abuse of Greyhounds and is unconscionable.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATTI MCLARTY MYSELF WELLINGTON, FL 33414
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:21:05 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

please stop the inhumaneness that goes along with dog racing. we don't need it. too many are confined, too many are left abandoned when the owners are down on their luck. Stop it now

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | BERNICE CAMPBELL GAINESVILLE, FL 32653 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:21:48 PM |
| | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| <p>As a Florida constituent I adamantly support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo. The breeders are in it for the money, nothing else. They do not care about the dogs unless they make them money.</p> <p>Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.</p> <p>I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.</p> <p>Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JAMES BRUNTON MR. TAMPA, FL 33612 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:22:13 PM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| <p>Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.</p> <p>You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.</p> <p>Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JAMES BRUNTON MR. TAMPA, FL 33612 | Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 10:29:06 AM |
| | | Position: For Information Only |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| Please support greyhound decoupling. Also, support greyhound injury reporting. Cast a humane vote for the dogs. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MICHELLE BORGEN TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34688 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:22:33 PM |
| | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | |
| <p>Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.</p> <p>I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.</p> <p>Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.</p> | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES HORNE
SEGRETO QUANTS LLC
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:22:35 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am asking for the decoupling of casino gambling from dog racing. We have two rescue greyhounds and are involved in placement of other retired dogs. I have heard that racing the dogs is not a profit center for the casinos. Please consider doing this in a way that allows for a phase out so that there will not be a mass slaughter of dogs.

Yours,
James Horne

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA SOARES
MIAMI, FL 33186

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:24:05 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please note that I support decoupling of greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RICHARD LONGLEY
FORT WHITE, FL 32038

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:25:18 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support the decoupling of Greyhound racing from other forms of gambling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA RYANCZAK
SARASOTA, FL 34232

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:27:15 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Greyhound racing is not a sport a civilized country should be participating in. It is animal cruelty at its worst. It is no better or worse than dogfighting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONALD L JACKSON
HOBE SOUND, FL 33455

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:27:51 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Decoupling Greyhound racing is the best option for the dogs. Dog breeders represent their own interests, not the dogs. Please consider the dogs' best interests rather than the breeders' profits and political contributions.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA MORAN
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33062

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:29:13 PM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. The dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Dogs are being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Please end this needless animal suffering.

Thank you, Lisa Moran

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: REBECCA HULL
ASPCA
WINTER PARK, FL 32789

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:29:18 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please approve the decoupling of greyhound teaching from other forms of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSANNA LASLETT LIGHTHOUSE POINT, FL 33064
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:29:27 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am expressing my support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Greyhound racing is a dying industry; to force them to race in order to allow slot machines is ridiculous and makes no sense. The dogs have a hellous life, spending 20 hours a day confined to small cages. They are just "things" to their owners and routinely receive inadequate veterinary care and food. The statistics show this industry is not viable, daily torture of the dogs is not going to save dog racing. Let people gamble, I don't care.... but no need to force dog racing for that to happen.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LESTER SAWYERS SELF LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33973
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:29:36 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

It's time to end dog racing in Florida or to provide better treatment to the dogs especially when their racing days are over.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOYCE VENEZIA EDGEWATER, FL 32141
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:29:36 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Let's show the country that this time Florida has their act together and work on ending this barbaric practice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KELLY BYRNES MRS. SANTA BARBARA, CA 93108
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:29:36 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Dear sir or madame, i am in support for decoupling for the following reasons:

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

kind regards,
kelly

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA SENSAT MIAMI, FL 33193
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:29:47 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF USING DOGS FOR GAMBLING AND THE USE OF A LIVE, FEELING ANIMAL CANNOT BE COMPARED TO THE USE OF A SLOT MACHINE.
KEEP YOUR MACHINES, STOP USING THE DOGS; IT IS CRUEL AND UNACCEPTABLE

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JONNA KOELLHOFFER DECOUPLING GREYHOUND RACING BRADENTON, FL 34207
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:30:25 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RENEE FANGUIAIRE TAMPA, FL 33615
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:31:13 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Surely you can see that making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I strongly oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. This is just as terrible as puppy mills.
Greyhound racing has for some time been a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also decreased by half.
More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Anyone who supports the above inhumane industry should be ashamed. We used to be a loving country, but we have become something much less with such acts being allowed.
Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN STICKLE
DECOUPLING GREYHOUND RACING
BRADENTON, FL 34207
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:31:18 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIE COFFEY
WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:31:23 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please stop the abuse of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHLEEN GREGORY
CSM PROMOTIONS
EUSTIS, FL 32736
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:31:28 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Causing dogs to race in order to allow slot machines makes absolutely no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on dogs and surely does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and more importantly the animals suffer.

Dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food is a form of torture.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry in more ways than one. Statistic tell us that since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. Additional greyhound suffering will not save this industry.

As someone that actively works in Greyhound rescue, I see firsthand the results of tracks that are forced to use dogs to justify additional forms of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAMELA MONAGHAN
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33444
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:32:21 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I have been a Florida resident for over thirty (30) years. Greyhound racing is a dying and dirty industry. The dogs are abused and live a horrible existence. If they are sent out of the state when they are no longer needed or too old, they are more severely abused when shipped to countries like latin america. This sport must end in this state. Additionally, I support decoupling of the greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SAMANTHA MCCALLISTER JACKSONVILLE, FL 32211 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:32:51 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I think that coupling dog racing with gambling is ridiculous. Animals should not be used for sport, in an attempt to run a separate business. I see no problems with the gaming industry as a whole, I do not participate myself but if that is what people want to partake in, let them. However, do not take an innocent animal and subject them to unfair treatment because people want to gamble. Florida is one of seven states left to eradicate dog racing and I think it is important that you let gambling stand on its own.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET BROUGHTON PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33418 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:33:01 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support dog race decoupling. It just doesn't make sense to force two unrelated forms of gambling: slot machines and dog racing.

Dog racing is archaic and inflicts pain and suffering on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks.

I oppose dog racing because dogs are forced to spend 20 hours a day confined to small cages, These dogs do not receive adequate veterinary care or proper food.

Thankfully, Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Dog racing has declined by 50% since 2001. Forcing more dogs to suffer is not going to revive this "sport."

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages,

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA HECK GREYT LAKLEAND, FL 33809 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:33:04 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

We need to decouple. There is NO GOOD REASON to KEEP RACING THESE DOG.

Let the DECOUPLING GO THROUGH, AND MAKE IF A 5 YR CLOSE DOWN TO THE TRACKS!

If it were a 5 yr plan it would give all those that are currently invested in the dogs, and get their livelihood off the dogs, time in which to go forward to get into other types of business. This makes sense and has had much thought put behind this proposal.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHERYL ROBB NONE WINTER PARK, FL 32789 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:33:48 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I believe that gaming, gambling and dog racing should be reduced, not expanded. Most people who gamble or go to the racetrack can hardly afford it in the first place and it is only a way to tax the poor. It is also cruel to the greyhounds to race them, and especially in the Florida heat. Dog racing is not a sport. It is cruel and inhumane and should be banned altogether. I hope that you stop supporting this cruel and inhumane sport. Greyhounds make wonderful pets, not racing animals. Horse racing should also be stopped if you ask me. How cruel is it to put down a horse that has broken its leg running? It wouldn't have broken it in the first place if it hadn't been racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANICE MERVIS BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33436 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:34:06 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am AGAINST the dog racing that takes place in Florida. It should be decoupled from gambling casinos. I have personally witnessed the harsh handling of these beautiful dogs. It is an outrage.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAULA POWERS BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:34:45 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against using dogs for racing, horses too for that matter-it is a cruel sport, the animals are not treated humanely after their "career" is over and I feel that it is needless exploitation of animals that are meant to be first and foremost our pets-greyhounds love to run, but at home are couch potatoes-they do not deserve to be kept in cages, deprived of the love that any person would usually give their pet dog-they are cruelly disposed of after losing races-they are not garbage to be thrown away or killed because they can't earn money anymore-horses too are disposed of if they are not "winners". Animals are feeling creatures-intelligent, affectionate, loyal, willing to do anything for us-why use that willingness to please us to end up treating them cruelly or disposing of them without a thought-they were trained by us, love us-do you throw your child away because he or she loses in a sport? Animals have the same rights or should. Gamble with cards, dice, etc. NOT WITH AN ANIMAL'S LIFE!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAULA POWERS BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435 Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 5:16:32 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am against all race tracks-both for dogs and horses because of the cruelty to animals that takes place. I really have no opinion about Jai Lai as far as gaming goes. I am in favor of casinos, card games, roulette, slots, etc. because of the revenue that they bring to the state-just please ban any gambling that includes animals-close the racetracks permanently.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN EVANS GREYHOUND RACING OVIEDO, FL 32765 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:35:21 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

No Greyhound racing its nothing but ABUSE lets have better options like slot machines no animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HENRYK ZALESKI PERSONAL PLEA LAKE PLACID, FL 33852 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:35:33 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Protect the dogs who entertain us and at no time treat them like wood for the stove. Cruelty is not to be tolerated, that includes doping of the poor creatures who had the misfortune to be own by greedy and stupid men.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOY HUNTON FORT MYERS, FL 33917
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:35:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

To Whom it May Concern:

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Let's us move out of the dark ages.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Sincerely,
Joy Hunton

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOCELYN GALLEGOS NAVARRE, FL 32566
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:36:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Having a law that says a gambling business must also have a dog racing track, is absolutely ludicrous. Times have changed and it is important that we make changes to laws that are antiquated. It is upsetting to know animals are senselessly suffering along with this dying industry. Please consider making this irrelevant connection, a thing of the past.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN TUCKER ANIMAL WELFARE SANIBEL, FL 33957
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:36:21 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAUREN WILSON ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:36:36 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Shut down dog racing tracks. They're cruel.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CINDY KENNEDY FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:37:15 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATTI MARTIN MRS. SPRING HILL, FL 34610 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:38:30 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

WHEN GAMING INVOLVES EXPLOITING HUMANS OR ANIMALS FOR GAIN, IT SPEAKS VOLUMES OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT. QUITE FRANKLY THAT THEY LACK TOTAL INTEGRITY. HOW SELFISH TO RACE GRAYHOUNDS AND THEN EXPOSE OF THEM WHEN THEY ARE NOT RACING MATERIAL ANYMORE. I AM SO APPALLED AT THE EXPLOITATION LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY SUPPORTED. A BUNCH OF NO GOOD CORPORATE SLUTS. NO LESS THAN PROSTITUTES WHEN YOU TAKE MONEY TO SWAY THE LAW TO SUIT THIS INDUSTRY. WHO MADE YOU GOD? HOW DARE YOU ABUSE THE CREATURES HE CREATED? AND SINCE WHEN DO YOU REPRESENT YOUR GREEDY DAM SELVES INSTEAD OF CONSTITUENTS? I TRULY HOPP PEOPLE VOTE ALMOST EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU OUT.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUANITA GALINDO MIAMI, FL 33137 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:41:00 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Gambling should not impair the welfare of innocent animals, who can't choose whether or not they want to participate in it. Every years hundreds of abused dogs end up in shelters unwanted because their racing careers are over. Dogs are not slot machines and should not be treated the same.

Making dog tracks a requirement for having gambling is ridiculous! Don't harm a being that has no choice! Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SANDY WILSON PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34983 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:41:01 PM |
| | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| <p>Please decoupling greyhound racing from other types of gambling at race tracks. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines is inhumane and senseless. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.</p> <p>If you want to end this cruelty, dogs confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food please enact the decoupling law.</p> <p>Greyhound racing is a dying industry because humans care about animals being used for profit at the expense of dogs. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SUZANNE MCELROY MYSELF LAKE PARK, FL 33403 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:41:10 PM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | |
| the greyhounds are not being treated humanely.... | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | TRUDY OLIVERIO DOG RACING TAMPA, FL 33611 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:41:15 PM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| Stop dog racing in Florida | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | BRIDGET DESJARLAIS ST.PETERSBURG , FL 33713 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:41:30 PM |
| | | Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| <p>Please end the coupling of dog races with all gambling establishments.</p> <p>The dogs are suffering. Lets take cruelty off Florida's books.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARIANNE HUIJSMANS STUART, FL 34997 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:42:17 PM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) | | |
| <p>Dogs should run on a playground not on a track.</p> <p>They are family pets and not being sitting in a cage without any love</p> <p>And just do a terrible job to get people very wealthy</p> | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRIGITTE JACOBS WESTON, FL 33327
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:42:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

This is just a brief comment to let you know that I support decoupling of greyhound racing. I am not against gambling, but I do not support the inhumane way that these greyhounds are being raced. In this day and age, there should be absolutely no animals, (dogs or horses) that are forced to race for gambling purposes. If people want to gamble, innocent animals should not be involved. Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATIE PAYTON RIVERVIEW, FL 33579
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:44:07 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATIE PAYTON RIVERVIEW, FL 33579
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 5:11:59 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am opposed to the tie that has been created between pari-mutuel gambling and casino gambling. Dog racing is a cruel sport that is guilty of killing thousands of dogs every year. Most dog racing tracks would have gone out of business years ago, except that casino gambling is keeping them open. And the only way that casino gambling can expand is to tie into these evil pari-mutuel games. I don't care if people gamble or not, but stop killing and torturing innocent dogs to do it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMBAR YOUNGMEYER WINDERMERE, FL 34786
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:44:12 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support the decoupling of greyhound racing. Please let these animals be treated kindly and not like pieces of money making meat.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

LINDSEY KELLEY
ELKTON, FL 32033

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 4:46:07 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Neither For nor Against

I am new to Florida and was surprised and saddened to see that Florida still supports Greyhound racing. I just learned that Florida State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling, and I am confused as to why that would be a state law. Who does that benefit and what is the purpose of abusing these animals in order to have a gambling license? Isn't Greyhound racing a dying industry? I have lived in communities where Greyhound rescues are at pet stores trying to find homes for these exploited dogs and have heard their terrible stories of what these dogs go through. I hope this mandate is removed and that Florida no longer supports & encourages the barbaric act of greyhound racing.

Thank you,
Lindsey Kelley

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

CHRISTINE BOEHM
GAINESVILLE, FL 32605

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 4:46:37 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

LEN AND CATHI BUTTICCI
NAPLES, FL 34113

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 4:46:44 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

We strongly support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks.

Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

We oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Please act responsibly and help get these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PEGGY PARKS
PORT RICHEY, FL 34668
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:47:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please stop the animal abuse of racing Grey Hounds its not necessary there are so many other things in this country that need attention why make a poor dog suffer for a humans gain?????????

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARK LAINER
ORLANDO , FL 32818
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:48:15 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please ban greyhound racing in Florida. It is cruel, it is barbaric and it is time for it to end.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LANETTE RAPP
LEESBURG, FL 34748
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:50:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
What I am really against is the dog racing industry. It is cruel and heartless. No animal should suffer at the hands of man for entertainment, and these dogs do suffer. Please ban dog racing in our state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHERINE NEWSUM
BELLE ISLE, FL 32809
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:50:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
I am writing to ask that Greyhound Racing be discontinued and that businesses with gambling licenses be decoupled from greyhound tracks. Greyhound racing is a dangerous, cruel and costly sport, and the dogs are kept in inhumane circumstances and often not cared for when injured. Dogs are kept in small cages approximately 20 hours a day, receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Those that no longer produce "wins" with corresponding purses are often brutally killed or sometimes merely abandoned to starve. Greyhounds are highly intelligent animals with beautiful natures and great personalities and using them for the exploitive, greedy, "sport" of racing is a horrible and inhumane business. There is absolutely NO reason to mandate that dog racing and other forms of gambling be coupled into a business model. PLEASE discontinue this practice!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANNA BAILEY
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33062
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:52:37 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CINDY LEY TAMPA, FL 33624
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:52:52 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUANITA SPANIOLI HIALEAH, FL 33015
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:53:04 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Racing greyhounds should stop. This is animal abuse.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELLEN JOHNSON SPRING HILL, FL 34609
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:54:52 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA SMITH MICCO, FL 32976
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:56:14 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

please stop dog racing in florida!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHIRLEY BLACKWELL JACKSONVILLE, FL 32223
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:56:44 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please, please, please stop the cruelty of dog racing. Please, please decouple dog racing from gambling and no longer require it. That is absurd.

That is mandating cruelty to animals. Shame on you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANN FORTNER COCOA BEACH, FL 32931
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:56:45 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

We must stop Greyhound racing now.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIANE KIRBY TAMPA, FL 33609
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:58:14 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please put a stop to Greyhound racing. Those poor dogs are abused and disposed of in the most cruel ways when they are no longer able to race. This industry is no longer profitable and has died in all other states. Please end the Greyhounds suffering. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GINGER THOMPSON BELLEAIR BLUFFS, FL 33770
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:58:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Stop Greyhound racing!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TOM GAVIN STOP THE CRUELTY CASSELBERRY, FL 32707
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:58:52 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)
those dogs live in a cage constantly 22 to 23 hours each and every day !! This is CRUEL and should be stopped immediately !! Let's help these dogs out by stopping the in humane way they are being cared for !! Place these dogs up for adoption and give them a loving home !!!! Tom Gavin

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EDUARDO CASTINEIRA MIAMI, FL 33172
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 4:59:37 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
•Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
•I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
•Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURIE WEAVER BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33437
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:00:58 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of dog racing.

The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists.

Reasons to support decoupling of greyhound racing:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORINE SISLER LARGO, FL 33773
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:01:07 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

please stop this cruelty now!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VIRGINIA SPENCER N/A REPRESENT MYSELF SEBRING, FL 33872
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:01:34 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

There is just one area, at the moment, that I wish to draw your attention. This is of dog racing in Florida. This is a dying industry and needs to be decoupled from other requirements for gaming. These beautiful greyhounds live in substandard conditions, confined in small spaces most of a 24 hour day. Yes, the dogs were meant to run and have fun, not live in despicable conditions where they have no hope of having a loving family and friends to share this life. Please stop this disgusting practice - let people race against one another - you can bet on them. Second issue, I fully support Native American gaming, it's the least we can do to allow them to improve the economy - from which we all benefit.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DARLENE DUFRANE VENICE, FL 34285
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:02:22 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I oppose dogs being forced to spend 20 hours a day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Please stop dog racing ASAP.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JILL SULLIVAN ST PETE, FL 33707 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:02:59 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

A greyhound track should not have to be required for gaming. Stop the cruelty to these animals!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUCI FOWLER 1943 GRACEVILLE, FL 32440 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:07:29 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

It is past time to decouple Greyhound racing from gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA MARTENS PANAMA CITY, FL 32404 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:07:34 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAN DAMPIER DELTONA, FL 32725 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:08:38 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Maybe we should promote things that don't abuse animals and raise our collective conscience toward bettering ourselves and clean up our planet "Don't shit where you live."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LENORE NASSOR PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34953 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:12:05 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

What I object to and would like to see soon is the abolishment of greyhound racing for humane reasons. I came from Massachusetts 4 years ago and am now a permanent resident of Florida. We voted against and won the issue against greyhound racing in Massachusetts and I do hope the same will happen here soon.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ANNE MARIE CANCIO SELF TAMPA, FL 33647 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:12:08 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | Position: For Information Only |

Yes, I am writing to support the decoupling of greyhound racing from other forms of gaming. In the interest of full disclosure, I am against greyhound racing in any form (unless it's a backyard race between companion pet greyhounds who feel like chasing each other). So, any change in regulation/law that reduces greyhound racing in our state is more than welcome. In addition to being forced to run beyond exhaustion for the hours during which they are training/competing, most greyhounds are kept in small kennels for the remainder of the time, and finally euthanized or dumped into the animal rescue market after they are no longer competitive.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DIANA DONOVAN SARASOTA, FL 34236 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:12:53 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

Please help stop dog racing in Florida by decoupling it from other forms of gambling. Thank you.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ENNA PIETRANTONI CONCERNED CITIZEN ORLANDO, FL 32807 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:14:38 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I support decoupling of greyhound racing.
Dog racing should be banned in Florida as a cruel sport that uses and abuses poor dogs for profit. I oppose it for the following reasons:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ALAN KARDOFF PALM BAY, FL 32907 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:15:05 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Dog racing is cruel and inhumane. It should be banned.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SUSAN BLOOM 1954 BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33437 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:15:23 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: For Information Only |

please close the dog racing venues in Florida. These beautiful animals should not have to live like this!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERE GIGANTI MIAMI, FL 33144
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:15:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

please help to finish the dog racing, and help the poor greyhound dogs, that it is cruel

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANE EAGER NAPLES, FL 34120
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:16:31 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

You should have a category for Moral Impacts. Please STOP Greyhound racing...any and ALL dog racing. How can this horribly cruel thing be allowed to go on??? Please, look into you heart and put a stop to this cruelty to animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON GUARINO TAMARAC, FL 33321
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:16:50 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I SUPPORT DECOUPLING DOG RACING FROM OTHER FORMS OF GAMBLING IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY BURDICK LECANTO, FL 34461
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:16:53 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please do what ever you can to change the law requiring gambling places to also offer greyhound racing. This law makes no sense.
Thank you,
Mary Burdick

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDRA HEIDE PACE, FL 32571
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:16:53 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I would like to see the law changed in regards to Greyhound Racing. As of right now, the law stipulates that greyhound racing should be available in addition to other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Greyhounds can be very abused and killed after their short term life in racing. Please abolish this law so that greyhound racing is declared illegal and continue to offer other gambling without greyhound racing.
Thank you for your time and attention
Andra Heide
Animal lover

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHUCK LUCHESI PUBLIC HOMOSASSA, FL 34446
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:16:59 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I find that the requirement that requires a dog track for every gaming organization is ridiculous. Why would such a stupid law ever be passed. Please consider repealing this law.

Sincerely,
Chuck Luchesi

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA PEASE JUPITER, FL 33458
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:17:38 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BONNIE SHAPIRO SELF AND ASPCA CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33065
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:21:46 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I wish to express my support for the decoupling of dog racing with other forms of gambling. Greyhound racing is a cruel sport which is losing favor with the public. No animal should be subject to caging for hours on end. There is no sane reason for requiring gambling establishment to offer greyhound racing. This requirement benefits no one and should be abolished.

Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: COLETTE A. WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:22:01 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to express my support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | BETSY KLEIER MRS. MIAMI, FL 33176 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:24:10 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Please stop Grayhound racing. | | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SHERRY DELANO PANAMA CITY, FL 32408 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:27:08 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Close all dogtracks! | | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JAMES ADAMS ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33704 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:27:15 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| <p>It has come to my attention that dog racing in Florida is not subject to inspections by humanitarian investigators. Greyhounds suffer from ill treatment in Florida racetracks, suffering which could be stopped if the authorities stepped in and enforced animal rights laws.</p> <p>Additionally, Florida law codes include a strange condition that all gambling establishments must include dog races. This law unfairly supports the racing business and forces entrepreneurs into supporting a sport they may not be interested in or even approve of.</p> <p>I believe it would be best if these two issues were removed from the Florida legal system.</p> | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | BERTHA NUNE-DIAZ MIAMI, FL 33134 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:27:15 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| <p>Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.</p> <p>You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.</p> <p>Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.</p> <p>Please vote to de-couple dog racing and slot machines, and save this beautiful animals from any further suffering. Thank you</p> | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL WEBER TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:27:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to voice my support of decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in Florida. Only seven states support dog racing and I think most people these days realize it is cruel and abusive to the dogs as well as to the animals used to train the dogs. Any action that can be taken to reduce dog racing should be taken.

I witnessed a dog race once in Monticello and I found it to be horrible. I cannot imagine the suffering these dogs go through, cramped in small cages with poor vet care. I know that where there is profit for a motive, the animals will suffer. Our community has a greyhound rescue, and these dogs are gentle, loving creatures. This form of gaming is out of date. We are a more enlightened people now and Greyhound racing is a dying "sport". My wish is that it will cease to exist at all. In the meantime, please de-couple it from other forms of gaming.

Thank You.
Carol Weber.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JACQUELINE ANCHETA ASPCA WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33417 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:27:17 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Hello, FL Senate Gaming Committee,

I would like to take a minute of your time to express my strong support in decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling.

Once, I enjoyed going to the dog track; seeing these beautiful dogs compete then be joyous at the end of the race once they have received their reward consisting of a quick treat. However, that's changed due to the knowledge of mistreatment of these canine athletes. It's not entertaining spending an evening watching an animal that outwardly looks mentally and physically well when deep down inside you know at the end of the night these dogs will be inadequately fed, housed, appreciated and loved. My family, friends and myself have all elected other forms of entertainment BECAUSE of FL law requiring Grayhound racing be included at businesses offering other types of gambling.

Will you please favor and request decoupling of dog racing to the FL Legislature?!

Sincerely,
Jacqueline

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELISSA MILLS INVERNESS, FL 34450 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:29:47 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am for gambling, but I am NOT for dog racing. Let people play cards, slot machines, or dice games...but do not continue to let the animals suffer. My family owned a greyhound which was once a race dog, and she was so sweet but it took years for her to warm up and be a normal dog. Animals, including dogs, have emotions and feel pain. Please do not force them to live the life of animal slavery for human entertainment.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHEILA MARSHALL VERO BEACH, FL 32963 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:32:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please discontinue the requirement for Greyhound Dog Racing in all gaming locations.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GEORGE MARSHALL
VERO BEACH, FL 32963
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:14:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please decouple the greyhound racing from other gaming.
And please require the reporting of injuries to greyhounds used in racing.
Greyhounds are sweet dogs and deserve to be treated better.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANNE HURFORD
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32246
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:32:30 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
GET RID OF THE DOG TRACKS. WE SHOULD NOT SUPPORT THE CRUEL CONDITIONS THAT ARE PART OF THIS SPORT

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOANNE HILL
GREYHOUND OWNER
LAKE PLACID, FL 33852
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:34:47 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
let not they greyhounds suffer at the hands of greed

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID DANIELS
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:39:06 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I would like to let you know that I support the decoupling of greyhound racing for the following reasons:
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
Dogs should not be forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSANNE HESSE & DOUG DYER
MS.
ALACHUA, FL 32615
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:39:32 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please do not put greyhound racing in the same category as other forms of gaming as it compromises the well being of these animals

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LYNDAROUX JOHNSON ALVA, FL 33920 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:40:21 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN SCHNEIDER SCHNEIDER FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST PALM BEACH, FL 33480 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:41:47 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please please please:
We need to de-couple dog racing from gambling in our state. Please let's work together to do something about dog racing now! It's long overdue.
Thank you.
S

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIAN PINO NAPLES, FL 34120 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:41:51 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am in favor of decoupling greyhound racing due to the immense animal cruelty it causes.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREA ROOSA SARASOTA, FL 34232 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:42:45 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I wish to express my disappointment in our govt decision in continuing dog racing in this state. please put an end to dog racing period.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA FAVERIO SPRING HILL, FL 34608
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:43:02 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in our state. Mandating dogs race in order to allow slot machines or other gambling makes absolutely no sense. Slot machines and casino games are harmless entertainment and profitable for businesses, while dog racing inflicts pain and suffering on the dogs and does not benefit the business. Gambling/gaming businesses should not be forced to hold races as part of a package; they lose money and the animals suffer. The only ones profiting from greyhound racing are the dog breeders and their lobbyists. As do the majority of Americans, I oppose dogs being forced to spend 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food, as well as sustaining painful injuries, and are often killed when their racing days are over. If you have any compassion within you, you oppose this too. Thankfully, greyhound racing is a dying industry. It's a shame our state of Florida is not only behind the times, but mandates this inhumane and barbaric industry continue in order for businesses to offer profitable casino games. Because Americans are aware and concerned about the mistreatment of these animals, the dog racing industry has been cut in half since 2001. States across the country have banned this cruel activity and Florida is now one of the few that remains. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry! It's bad for the animals, it's bad for the businesses, and it's bad for the people of the state of Florida. And as more Floridians become aware of just how cruel and inhumane greyhound racing is, they will make their election decisions based on the cruel or humane records officials.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY LAMB MRS. ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:43:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support Dog Racing Decoupling. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. It is time this ends.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN ARTICE MS. PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33981
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:43:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support Dog Racing Decoupling. The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEA LAMB ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:44:21 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support Dog Racing Decoupling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense, and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORI MASTERSON BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33436
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:45:32 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

PLEASE HELP-End suffering for racing dogs.

I support decoupling, and hopefully you do too: Here is why-

- 1 • Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
2. •You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- 3 •Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARILOU BOGGS COCOA, FL 32926
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:48:39 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am neither for or against gaming I am however against the continuation of requiring dog racing to have gaming in the state of Florida. I think we have come to far to think that this use or should I say misuse of living animals is ok. It should be stopped.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA SIERRA MIAMI, FL 33174
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:50:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Do not neglect this animals please help them with your support

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT TROTTER LAKE MARY, FL 32746
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:52:53 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please stop requiring businesses offering any type of gambling to also operate Greyhound tracks.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROCHELLE MALOY MRS. DELAND, FL 32720
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:55:00 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUE CANADA
SELF
TITUSVILLE, FL 32780
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:55:07 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)
Please stop greyhound racing as this is an outdated law that is not fair to the dogs or the gaming industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAIL COGSWELL
ELLENTON, FL 34222
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:55:09 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to decouple the dog racing industry from slots.....it makes no sense to force dog racing to continue just so that slot machines can be used..... end the dog racing now...I urge you to end the cruelty to the dogs who are kept in cages 20 hours a day and receive sub-standard care. Thank you!
Gail Cogswell

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: M. GREGORY
BOCA RATON, FL 33433
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:55:37 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I support the de-coupling of greyhound tracks from other gambling establishments.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARISA PISANI
MIAMI, FL 33133
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:57:32 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I strongly support the decoupling of greyhound racing. Please let's eliminate this vicious activity that allows for animal cruelty in more than one level. Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARISA PISANI
MIAMI, FL 33133
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:21:55 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill so that we can protect those wonderful animals from harm. Please let's the cruelty they are submitted to as soon as possible.
Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY BORSANI ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33704 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:00:09 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I vehemently oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONNA STATZ MS. FORT MYERS, FL 33908 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:01:22 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

It is animal abuse to race dogs in FL

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELLE COOPER MELBOURNE, FL 32940 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:04:22 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am very against racing of Greyhounds. There are plenty of other ways to gamble without involving innocent animals. Please consider banning the racing of Greyhounds because we want to live in a humane society. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBBIE WHITE TAMPA, FL 33689 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:04:48 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

PLEASE STOP GREYHOUND RACING....IMAGINE HOW YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED IF YOU WERE A DOG.
THANK YOU
DEBBIE

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBBIE WHITE TAMPA, FL 33689 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:57:02 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I'm against cruelty to animals. Please do the right thing and take the animals out of gambling please.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAUREL VENABLE MARCO ISLAND , FL 34145 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:05:10 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop the gaming and dog racing. How cruel can you be? And all for money!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURA ALLEMAN QUINCY, FL 32351
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:07:33 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIC FUCHS BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33472
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:08:07 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please stop Greyhound racing. It is cruel and dangerous for these beautiful dogs. Other states have already banned dog racing
Thanks

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GINA CARACCI COCOA, FL 32926
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:08:30 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I just learned that due to some strange law here in Florida, to have gaming slot machines, dog racing must also be present.
That makes absolutely no sense. Dog racing is dying, thank God, which is saving thousands of lives. Yes, they are dogs lives, but they suffer greatly for the greed of money.
They are stuck in cages their whole lives, are muzzled which is ridiculous when they are the sweetest breed around, dont receive proper, if any health care, are drugged and abused. They are forced to be born to endure a life of torture. When they no longer perform up to their owners standards, they are disposed of like garbage. LITERALLY. They are then replaced and the cycle continues.
The gaming places are actually LOSING money, which is great in my opinion since gambling is a horrible, life ruining addiction, but if it will save dogs lives to help them boost profits by eliminating dog races, then so be it..
Florida is already called weird for so many reasons. Lets lose one of those reasons and save THOUSANDS of lives! (Those racing and their replacements. We DO have a huge stray overpopulation and this will help)) Thank you so much for reading this!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIZABETH BROWNING HOLIDAY, FL 34691
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:08:37 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I would like to see decoupling law passed to help end greyhound racing in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WENDY PROBST FLEMING ISLAND, FL 32003
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:09:33 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I strongly support the decoupling of dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable. The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitative form of entertainment. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your heavy consideration on this very important matter.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHERIE EPLEY CLEARWATER BEACH, FL 33767
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:10:55 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please do not attach any gaming/gambling legislation to Greyhound racing. I would like to see Greyhound racing eventually die out. Dogs belong in loving homes & treated as family companions. The only running they need to be doing playing with other dogs or with their human adoptive families. It is a cruel & unnatural environment for an intelligent & loving animal.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PALOMA BUSTAMANTE BOCA RATON, FL 33432
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:11:01 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

STOP GREUHOUND RACING!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHAN ALBERT MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:11:03 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am not against gaming per se, however, I'm totally against dog racing. It's nothing short of animal abuse. There needs to be an end to this type of cruelty. Gaming, like everything else in a civilized society, should be cruelty free.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDY GREENFIELD MS. DENVER, CO 80237
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:13:48 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing from other forms of gambling. It makes no sense to necessitate racing greyhounds at a facility where unrelated gambling takes place. As someone who has been involved in greyhound rescue/adoption in Denver, Colorado, I see firsthand the neglect and suffering caused by greyhound racing: neglected dental care resulting in kidney disease, untreated or incorrectly treated leg injuries resulting in expensive surgeries, early arthrtis or even amputation, e.g. In addition, dog racing is in a steep decline and is not economically viable without taxpayers propping it up. Our last dog track closed in Colorado (Mile High) and the state no longer supports racing. Please consider decoupling dog racing at the racinos. thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA AMOROSO MARATHON, FL 33050
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:14:38 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

If adults want to gamble away their hard earned money let the them do it without making innocent animals suffer!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIAN YEAGER PALM BAY, FL 32907
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:14:55 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

As an animal lover and long time resident of Florida who has been active in pet rescue organizations, I urge you to end greyhound racing. These gentle dogs belong in loving homes, not in cages, or worse, killed when their racing days are over.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIA HUFFMAN DUBLIN, OH 43016
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:16:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support the decoupling of greyhound racing. Please do not continue to hurt these precious dogs (I have 2 retired greyhounds). They are wonderful dogs, not commodities, that should be treated as such.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHERINE MCNAMARA ORLANDO, FL 32828
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:17:38 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
 - I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
 - Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
- Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANA CAMBRON ST PETERSBURG, FL 33713 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:20:01 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I am completely and totaling against greyhound racing. We have no right to cause animals to suffer for our enjoyment, amusement or financial gains. Greyhouse racing is steadily declining in popularity but in Florida the tracks are required to have it if they want to remain open to gambling. If people want to gamble let them but there is no reason to continue to mandate that there must be dog racing as well. If people want to place bets on something running then let them get out there themselves and run around the tracks. If they want to ruin their lives with gambling then let them but leave the poor animals alone.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VIRGINIA MENDEZ NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FL 33160 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:21:48 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VIRGINIA MENDEZ MIAMI, FL 33160 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:36:40 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I encourage you to pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect greyhound dogs!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELISA DERBES MURPHY PINELLAS PARK, FL 33781
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:21:53 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
Please stop using the dogs to empower gambling in this state. It is criminal and inhumane!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EILEEN BOURGEOIS JUPITER, FL 33469
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:22:31 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Dog racing needs to be decoupled from other forms of gambling. Racing dogs and keeping them in confinement is inhumane and inconsistent with 21st century values. Lets raise the bar as human beings and ban dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FERYL TYNER PORT ORANGE, FL 32127
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:23:03 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
I would like to see the law changed that couples gambling with greyhound racing. It is inhumane. These animals are abused and exploited....please change this archaic law!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HECTOR GAUTIER LAKELAND, FL 33809
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:23:08 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please support the decoupling of the greyhound racing from gambling. These animals are profitable only to the breeders but not the gambling industry and the dogs suffer needlessly. Times have changed and they don't need to be treated like they do. Once their usefulness is done they're discarded like trash which is inhumane.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAUDIA LESAGE FT LAUDERDALE, FL 33308
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:23:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Greyhounds deserve an abuse free life just like all animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARSHA HIX SATELLITE BEACH, FL 32937
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:24:10 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I do not think we need to decouple dog racing from card rooms. I for one never voted on the card rooms, and think it was pretty underhanded the way it came into effect. Our state does not need more gaming rooms. We are supposed to be a family fun state. There are enough gaming states in this country for people to go to. Let it as it is! And yes, I own a greyhound that was adopted through Greyhound Pets of America. She is the best dog I could ever have.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STACEY SCHRAGER
THE HUMAN RACE
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:34:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

PLEASE STOP!!

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN SANDER
NONE
CLEARWATER, FL 33763
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:37:38 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I am totally against Greyhound racing and the horrific nightmares these beautiful animals endure for the sake of gambling and money. We are better than this, so prove it. As for all the mills, this is a stop now with lots of time in jail. Animals deserve to be protected, including the wild ones. I am just a private citizen, don't belong to any groups, just want justice for animals and only you can provide this and be their voice. Thank you, Susan Sander

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BIBI BARRETT
NAPLES, FL 34120
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:38:11 PM
Position: For Information Only

Hello, I am contacting you to please support and pass greyhound decoupling. This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement.

Also please require that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives. I cannot express to you how much the humane treatment of greyhounds is important to me, and that I am in full support of greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. I appreciate your time and support.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSIE CASSENS
FORT PIERCE, FL 34954
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:39:17 PM
Position: For Information Only

Dog racing can be done with computer animation to protect the lives of animals. It will also be less costly.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIZABETH MERHOTTEIN THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:40:38 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop hurting Greyhounds by racing them. It is a disgusting thing that humanity does. How would you like to be treated like that.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DARLENE WOLF NAPLES, FL 34102
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:41:54 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

People who haven't the means are gambling away money for food and shelter for their families. Greyhound racing is a cruel "sport" that leaves dogs unwanted and unloved and put to death in many cases. This is a poor example for our young people, being exposed to this inhumanity

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET DECKER CASSELBERRY, FL 32707
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:42:41 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please stop dog racing!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETTY HOLDEN ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:43:49 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

As a Florida resident and a member of The League of Humane Voters-Florida Chapter, I would like to see the elimination of the greyhound racing industry because of the inhumane treatment that greyhounds endure. Greyhounds are mass produced for the sole purpose of gambling entertainment. Greyhounds live a very short and inhumane life. When they are no longer profitable, the majority of greyhounds are euthanized. Please consider ending greyhound racing in the state of Florida. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROLE GARDINER MS. BOCA RATON, FL 33428
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:45:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop Greyhound racing. Too many dogs are treated terribly and then executed; they need your help. I am a Greyhound guardian. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIE BRODIS ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:45:54 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am concerned that current Florida laws encourage Greyhound racing. We need to decouple greyhound racing and slot machines. Greyhound racing is a dying "sport", and these dogs should not be forced to run or sit in cages for 20 hours a day.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

GREGORY GRYZAN
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33407

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 6:47:19 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

For Information Only

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

MELVYN JIMENEZ
MY SELF
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32222

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 6:48:24 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Against Expansion of Gaming

The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

BRENDA COSTELLO
THE VILLAGES, FL 32162

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 6:49:09 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Neither For nor Against

Tell them of your support for decoupling in your own words, or use these talking points:

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA LEAPER DUNNELLON, FL 34432 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:50:32 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TANYA KROEBER JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:51:56 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. I know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo, so I want you to hear my voice as well.

I believe that making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Please decouple greyhound racing from other forms of gambling.

Thank you for your time.

Tanya Kroeber

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHANIE BENDER FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:59:26 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am a firm believer that forcing dogs to race for sport is cruel. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I hope that the lawmakers I vote for will oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VICTORIA CUSACK WINTER PARK, FL 32789
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:00:54 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop the use of greyhounds racing. These poor animals live a poor and stressful life.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIP CLARKE MYSELF DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:01:22 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You must oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry and is inhumane and unconscionable. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

PLEASE speak up for those who cannot protect themselves. PLEASE do the right thing. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBORAH CARMACK DEBARY, FL 32713
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:03:39 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I do support the expansion of gambling in Florida. I believe that allowing Las Vegas-style gambling will bring great economic benefits to Florida through increased tourism.

In addition, as part of any comprehensive gaming legislation, I strongly support the de-coupling of casino gaming and horse or dog racing. Dog racing especially is a dying sport and it doesn't make sense for casino operators to be required to maintain racing operations. I oppose the treatment of these racing dogs and would very much like to see this sport eliminated altogether. If it is de-coupled from casino gaming, I believe that eventually most racing operations will shut down, sparing these dogs from the abuse to which they are currently subject.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KEN GARNER WELLINGTON, FL 33414
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:04:11 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please de-couple the requirement for gaming establishments to have greyhound racing so that they can continue the gaming. Do you realize you are condemning some of the most gentle and loving creatures to a life of confinement and zero affection just so people can gamble?

Greyhounds are dogs, they are wonderful pets, and they make excellent companions yet they are treated like a commodity.

Please use your humanity and compassion and eliminate this rule. Perpetuating it only keeps greyhounds suffering and I'm sorry, there is no justification for humans causing the suffering of a greyhound.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ADA DE LUQUE ASPCA EL PORTAL, FL 33138
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:04:20 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Internet Cafes or Adult Arca

PLEASE STOP THE INHUMAN TREATMENT OF GREYHOUNDS THAT ARE USED FOR RACING!!! DOGS SHOULD NOT BE USED AND ABUSED FOR PROFIT MAKING BY THE DOG RACING OWNERS AND INDUSTRY. WE HAVE TO STOP ALL DOG RACING! THAT'S THE ONLY ANSWER!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE LAVIOLETTE LONGWOOD, FL 32779
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:04:26 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please END greyhound racing. It is animal cruelty, and is an abusive, miserable life for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANICE NICHOLL SANFORD, FL 32771
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:05:26 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY RITTENHOUSE APOPKA, FL 32703
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:07:39 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please help in putting an end to dog racing. Racing Greyhounds and their care has always been been a hot bed for possible abuse.
I need your help in removing the stipulation of racing greyhounds for gaming to be allowed.
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DORI LOPRIORE ALL CREATURES WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:08:09 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

You people are no better than the common criminals that are arrested for animal abuse!!! Shame on you all....I would like to put all of you in cages and treat you as you treat those beautiful creatures...It's bad enough that they live a cruel life then,when you greedy pigs are done with them you toss them away like the trash....I will always vote to stop greyhound racing.....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: INDRA CHHABRA JACKSONVILLE, FL 32259 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:08:39 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling. Too many dogs are injured and killed due to the high number of dog tracks in Florida because of this requirement.
Please take action to end this as soon as possible.
Regards,
Indra Chhabra

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUGLAS ANDERSON SELF WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33413 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:09:17 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am wholeheartedly in favor of decoupling of greyhound racing.
These poor animals suffer and are abused for the sake of greed. Many states have already realized this and greyhound racing no longer exists there.
PLEASE put an end to this!!!
I am in full support of the following statements:
•Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
•I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
•Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIZ SUAREZ MIAMI, FL 33165 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:09:47 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDI PEEBLES NORTH PALM, FL 33408 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:10:33 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
PleAse stop the greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEAN CRAFT MIAMI, FL 33157 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:13:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I wish a ban could be imposed on greyhounds for racing. Very inhumane and should not be allowed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VICKI MASON LA CROSSE, FL 32658 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:16:50 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to urge you to decouple Grey Hound racing from other forms of gambling. This horribly cruel sport is dying at long last and that Florida has the most Greyhound tracks in the nation is a great source of shame and embarrassment to me as a native Floridian.

This "sport" is considered illegal in some states as well it should be. The lives and fate of racing Greyhounds is well known and I won't reiterate it here. Please have mercy and decouple this cruel practice from other forms of gambling. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Vicki Mason

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANNE GELORAN ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32080 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:17:40 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhounds are beautiful and loving animals. The treatment they receive in the racing industry must be stopped. No animal deserves to be abused for any reason.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIZ MCCORMICK BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33472 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:19:18 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Stop Greyhound dog racing in Florida

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAROL BRYAN LAKE WORTH, FL 33467 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:20:12 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Dog racing is not needed here. There is only one winner, the "house", never the poor dog who will be killed if he/she does not win.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARISSA BILL LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33936 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:24:12 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANELL CURTIS PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34953 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:25:10 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Racing dogs is wrong and cruel.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WENDY FUCHS NEPTUNE BEACH, FL 32266 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:26:12 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: For Information Only

Please update our laws to allow gambling without greyhound racing. These beautiful animals are mistreated and discarded once they can no longer race. They deserve better and we are a more humane state than this law portrays. Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EDWIN HUBBARD BOCA RATON,, FL 33432 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:27:33 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Greyhound racing is cruelty to animals personified and demonstrates once again bureaucratic stupidity and governmental ineptness.

Government insistence to perpetuate a dying "sport" when clearly it sustains an overall unwanted function needs to be discontinued - aka STOPPED - for those too stupid to understand otherwise.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MEREDITH RAUD ASPCA FERN PARK, FL 32730 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:27:57 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Free the gray hounds! Shut down the sick sport of torturing Gray Hounds. Stop dog racing! It's torture. People would not like to be forced on a track and made to run around in the hot sun chasing something they can't get. So why should the dogs. Have a heart!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURA KARST HOLLINGER MYSELF ST PETERSBURG, FL 33703
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:28:03 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I AM SPEAKING UP FOR THE GREYHOUNDS, ANYONE WHOM TAKES PART IN THIS IS A VERY ILL PERSON. ITS CALLED GREED. THIS SHOULD STOP NOW.WHEN YOUR MAKER. HE DOES NOT LIKE COLD HEARTS AND REPAYS BAD PEOPLE.11

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAY BEHRENS NONE NORTH PORT, FL 34287
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:30:10 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. I appose dogs being forced to stay in small cages hours at a time with bad food and a lack of vet care.This is animal abuse and should be banned.Dog breeders prove that they have no regard for these beautiful animals. This so called sport inflicts pain and suffering and has NO benefit to the track. This law is torture to the dogs and it is done because a few greedy people want other forms of gambling at the track. What kind of law is this ? I say it is horrible and cruel. Let these poor used and abused animals live in peace and comfort. It would be the first time ever for them. Stop this evil act. Please show some compassion and support decoupling of greyhound racing. Your heart will feel better for it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETTY GALVIN PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL 34952
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:33:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please stop making these poor animals suffer for money have a heart

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDY MICKEY NAPLES, FL 34109
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:33:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I am against expansion of any gaming that involves animals. The greyhound race industry is comparable to gladiator times. Dogs kept in cages, raced and then disposed of when they are no longer profitable.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBORAH FREED SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:35:35 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I'm oppose dog racing in general since as an animal rescue volunteer I've seen the results. Continuing to couple racing with slot machines will only serve to bring about more suffering to these poor creatures, who are usually discarded or killed when they no longer make their owners money. Please decouple slot machines from racing. The only ones being abused with this form of gambling are those unfortunate souls who make that choice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURA COLE BRADENTON, FL 34212
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:38:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please consider decoupling dog track racing from other forms of gaming such as slot machines. It is not humane to require to keep dogs, namely, greyhounds, in cages for extended periods to be used only as sport to support mankind's desire for "gaming". Dog racing is a dying form of "entertainment" and the dogs should be freed to enjoy the kind of home life other breeds enjoy.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATHLEEN LAMBERT FAIRFIELD, FL 32634
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:39:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

greyhound racing is cruel and needs to be stopped!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LYN LEEUW MARIANN#, FL 32448
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:40:11 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Animal cruelty is what I am against! I don't care what else people betting on!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GABRIELLE GRANOFKY BAYAREAGREYHOUNDADOPTIOS BROOKSVILLE, FL 34602
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:40:26 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Whenever people are making a profit off animals, animals loose!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BEVERLY LONGUIL NONE OCALA, FL 34476
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:42:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please help eradicate dog racing in Florida, home to 12 dog racing tracks (the most in the U.S.!). State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAT RITCHIE VENICE, FL 34294
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:42:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I adopted a retired racing greyhound that was the victim of greyhound racing .STOZp greyhound racing !!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MIRIAM BARKLEY
SELF
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33315
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:43:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
I am against using live animals for human profit and entertainment. Florida needs to follow suit with the rest of the country. These animals, greyhounds and horses are discarded like trash when they can no longer perform. I urge you to please take action and put an end to animal suffering at the expense of human pleasure.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER CUADRA
MIAMI, FL 33172
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:44:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please stop greyhound racing. This is a dying sport and younger generations frankly do not enjoy greyhound racing. We love greyhounds more than this senseless race. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VINCE HUBBLE
CAPE CORAL, FL 33991
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:45:21 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I support decoupling of greyhound racing. This torture has to stop!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBBIE BONNET
SELF
MIAMI, FL 33176
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:48:26 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)
Please end the abusive and inhumane sport of greyhound racing. There is no logic to coupling dog racing with slot machines. These are living, breathing animals that deserve to be treated with respect and love. They receive none of that while crammed into a cage the majority of their lives. Stop this cruelty.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CATALINA MCL OUGHLIN
TAMPA, FL 33637
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:50:11 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I don't like how animals are treated and discard after being used and most of them abused.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY SMITH
SELF
PENSACOLA, FL 32503
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:51:56 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

My comments concern DECOUPLING GREYHOUND RACING from gaming facilities. It is unconscionable to mandate that Greyhound racing, which is UNPROFITABLE, is required. We have adopted two rescued racing greyhounds, and they both suffered extensive chronic health problems as the direct result of conditions imposed at the racing facility. Florida is one of a very few states which still allows Greyhound racing, and it is NOT to the credit of this state that this cruel "sport" is perpetuated. PLEASE DECOUPLE GREYHOUND RACING FROM GAMING! These poor dogs do not need to continue to suffer because people wish to patronize gaming facilities. We have witnessed the dogs' suffering first hand. This is a barbaric activity. Please act to support "decoupling."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT WOLF
NAPLES, FL 34102
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:52:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

This act is so cruel and harmful, we as humans should be ashamed of ourselves. These animals deserve a better life.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAUDIA DEL BALSO
MIAMI, FL 33176
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:53:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHELSI DE CUBA
STUART, FL 34996
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:53:43 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I am writing regarding the future of dog racing. I believe it is inhumane and I am ashamed to live in a place where this is still happening. There is no reason to support a cause that exposes animals to the abuse that goes on in dog racing. Please end this ridiculous form of entertainment.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATTI SMITH ORLANDO, FL 32822 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:54:26 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I work in the pet service industry because it is my passion and what I love to do every day. The subject of Greyhound racing makes me quite angry as these beautiful creatures do not deserve to be treated in this inhumane way. I am very much against dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Florida must step up to the plate and follow suit with so many of the other "pet friendly" states who have abolished this sort of inhumane treatment to Greyhounds and become a state that does the right thing. Dogs should not be used for entertainment and this is animal abuse, in my opinion.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY MURPHY INDIVIDUAL PALM CITY, FL 34990 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:55:28 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please allow the decoupling of dog racing from the other forms of gambling. It is archaic, and inhumane. Let Florida be a LEADER in something for once, instead of the last to do anything!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIELLE OHANESIAN IN SUPPORT OF DECOUPLING JUPITER, FL 33458 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:55:43 PM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAUL MATTEODO GREENACRES, FL 33413 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:56:06 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please put an end to greyhound racing. These poor animals live for the sport, and then are discarded like trash. It's despicable and inhumane.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUCY LACK TAMPA, FL 33617 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:56:49 PM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

I support decoupling of greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGARITA LOPEZ MRS. MIAMI, FL 33177 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 7:58:19 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

the poor greyhound no body care they life only three years and finish! is only money care? where are the politicians?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANE WELLS SELF CENTENNIAL, CO 80121 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:07:44 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I fully support decoupling greyhound racing from other forms of gambling, the mandate requiring any establishment with gambling lic to have to offer greyhound racing makes absolutely no sense. More importantly, thousands of innocent dogs are breed, forced to race, live lonely lives of continual confinement, suffer untold injuries, most are then killed after they no longer are profitable, only a few make into loving homes thru adoption groups, the misery and suffering these poor animals endure I heartbreaking and heartless. This barbaric industry must end, and decoupling will help bring an end to this senseless activity. Please stop this misery for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ASDUR TRIFF MR. MIAMI, FL 33135 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:08:14 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

STOP GREYHOUND RACING AND THE ABUSE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CONSTANCE SPINNEY N/A LARGO, FL 33774 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:09:50 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

To for one moment pretend that grayhound "racing" is a sport is disgusting. It's no different than bull fighting. The bull will lose. There is NO question about that. In a sport, the bull would have a chance. Same with grayhounds. They are abused and used. There is no sport involved. You are disgusting and cannot claim you are a human being when you allow this abuse. 17

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

DEBBIE MOOREHEAD
SEBASTIAN, FL 32958

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 8:11:36 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

This gaming concerning greyhound racing is not only true gambling, but it is very harmful and dangerous for the dogs. They are raised strictly for racing and when their usefulness for this purpose is done, they are destroyed in whatever the owner sees fit. That is not only illegal, it is a disgrace; especially knowing that the people who are part of organizing and running it, knows that this goes on. The dogs are treated cruelly their whole lives and their lives end quickly and inhumanely, when they are no longer of use. Please stop this kind of so called sporting events and lets give these dogs a chance at life. That's the right thing to do. Thank you,

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

KATHLEEN STETTNER
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33483

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 8:13:26 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

For the following reasons, I object to greyhound racing: 1•Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
2•You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
3•Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Please put an end to this cruelty!

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

ALICE SANTANA
OCALA, FL 34480

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 8:15:29 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Against Expansion of Gaming

My family support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.
•Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
•You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
•Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHLEEN HERNANDEZ MIAMI, FL 33193

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 8:15:38 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

I write to express my support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable. The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. I am appalled that Florida is still one of the states in which this barbaric and disgusting form of entertainment still exists. Greyhounds are being forced right now to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. We can not let this cruelty continue any longer.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode:

KELLY MOORE
ASPCA
PANAMA CITY, FL 32404

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 8:18:05 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Please stop the opening of new dog racing tracks. The dogs are only put out to run for a maximum of three years and then most are put to death, the owners rarely try to find homes for these lovely creatures. If it wasn't for groups like the ASPCA and other rescue organizations most people would not even know how badly these dogs are treated, used and put to death. As a voter and animal lover I am asking that we do not allow any new dog racing parks be opened and we shut down the gambling at any and all dog racing parks open here in Florida now. Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode:

LILI KUNTZ
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL 32092

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 8:18:36 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Please pass a law outlawing greyhound racing. There is no need to have these poor animals forced to race and live in inhumane conditions in order to keep gambling centers open.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode:

VIRGINIA ZAGAR
SELF
THONOTOSASSA, FL 33592

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 8:19:06 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. I am very much opposed to dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. Sadly Florida is one of the 7. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. The sport of dog racing is cruel, costly and an exploitive form of entertainment. Free these dogs from constant confinement and suffering.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SCOTT TRAINOR WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33417 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:21:42 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I support decoupling of greyhound racing from gaming. There is no reason that greyhound racing should be continued just to keep the more lucrative gaming. Whenever animals are used to make a profit, there is profit motive to cut corners and the animals suffer.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CLAUDIA RIVERA KISSIMMEE, FL 34741 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:22:27 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ELYSE COULSON MS. WINTER PARK, FL 32792 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:26:14 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

It is a shameful act to do this to another life form. Life form requires an active consciousness on behalf of human beings and this needs to be taught and understood. We are not here to administer nor target actions against the greyhounds nor any other animal. They are not here for our entertainment at their life expense.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JAN BROWN SELF FORT MYERS, FL 33901 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:28:50 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Exploiting live animals to enhance gaming and criminal activity is surely immoral. And we have been discussing cruelty to the greyhounds for decades. Why are we still talking about this? It's high time we got busy and outlawed greyhound racing in Florida. We certainly should not couple it with slot machines or any other gambling device. I cannot support criminal activity or potential criminal activity.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | GRETCHEN GRIFFIN MRS. PALATKA, FL 32177 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:29:27 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

for decoupling of greyhound racing w/ other gambling

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LOIS BLOOD CAPE CORAL, FL 33993
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:29:57 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RANDI LOCKE LAKE WORTH, FL 33467
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:31:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Forcing dogs to participate in senseless races in order to allow slot machines is monstrous as well as detrimental to the economy. It inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not have to hold races when they lose money and - more importantly - the animals suffer. It is unconscionable for dogs to be forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to undersized cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. It's only a matter of time when enough good people will come to the aid of these defenseless creatures since, according to the experts, Greyhound racing is a dying industry anyway. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. We need some more soul searching in this state. But first we need a soul.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANE AND HAROLD RUDNER COCONUT CREEK, FL 33063
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:32:12 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

We need to eradicate dog racing in Florida, home to 12 dog racing tracks - the most in the U.S.!

State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling.

This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who:

1. spend their racing lives confined,
2. suffer terrible injuries,
3. and often are killed once they are no longer profitable.

This state law is cruel, unnecessary and unethical. Gamble in the casinos and leave these sentient beings live in peace. Animals are not ours for entertainment. People are the most cruel and the worst animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA JEAN MORRIS PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:33:14 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Get rid of greyhound racing ... due to what happened at Ebro racing A few years ago. Forgotten dogs that died!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEN SUTTON PALM BAY, FL 32908 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:36:57 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines at a site makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. Most tracks would LOVE to drop the greyhound racing aspect of their business. I oppose these dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. I live in a race town & they are always looking for someone to let the dogs out of the kennels at minimum wage & absurd hours of the day. Nobody wants to take care of these poor dogs. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. I am fine with the ability to gamble in whatever form you wish but I am NOT ok with the requirement to link greyhound racing with a gambling permit for businesses. Please consider decoupling greyhound racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CINDY CHAIT SARASOTA , FL 34233 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:38:55 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

Stop dog racing in FL. It is abuse. Please help.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANNE HENRY SARASOTA, FL 34232 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:41:12 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

•Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JORGE DELGADO MIAMI, FL 33015

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:41:44 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES HOEFFLIN EDGEWATER, FL 32141

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:47:22 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop the coupling of Dog Track Greyhound racing in Florida to keep gaming establishments open. These dogs suffer and are disposed of when they no longer win. They also spend their short lives in cages. Animals should no longer be used for gaming profits. It is cruel and a waste of a good gentle animal.

Regards,
James Hoefflin

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PHYLLIS CARIDI BOCA RATON, FL 33433

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:48:06 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Free Thousands of Greyhounds From Misery

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORI BALLENTINE ZEPHRYHILLS, FL 33542

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:48:15 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VICKI MATHENY OCALA, FL 34473

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:48:30 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Decouple greyhound racing and gambling. The cruelty of greyhound racing MUST end.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VICKI SPAULDING PENSACOLA, FL 32506 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:51:52 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Florida is committing a crime and living in the past when it comes to racing dogs at these gambling facilities. These poor animals are being exploited and abused all for human entertainment. I can't believe how the people in this state think. You all need to come out of the dark ages and gain a sense of what is right and wrong and running these dog tracks are WRONG. Treat animals with the dignity and respect they deserve. They were not put on this earth for your entertainment. Put an end to Dog Racing in this state so that I, a taxpaying, voting citizen can be proud of this state and not ashamed of it. The outcome of this will greatly reflect on how I decide to vote next time. Guaranteed!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VERONICA LACERDA HOLIDAY, FL 34691 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:52:45 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

To Whom it may Concern,

I would like you to consider abolishing greyhound racing and gambling. It is not a popular gambling type nor is it good for the animals to be forced into the conditions they are in. Think in a humane way and consider my thoughts. There are other ways to bring in money for gambling without the use of greyhounds or animals.

Thank you,

Veronica Lacerda

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARTHA M CHISHOLM THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA CORAL GABLES, FL 33146 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:58:58 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please, decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling NOW!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS LIGHTHOUSE POINT, FL 33064 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:00:43 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

Please support decoupling of dog racing from other forms of gambling. Dog racing is a cruel and inhumane practice. It's shameful to have this in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALISA BATTAGLIA WESTON, FL 33331 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:02:58 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida for these reasons:

- Dogs are not machines. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- Animal Abuse. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Most people don't support Greyhound racing. It is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dogs suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARI GARRETT LAKELAND, FL 33813 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:04:30 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please stop using dogs for race track gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBIN ROMAINE FORT WHITE, FL 32038 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:08:51 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)
hello please support the de-17coupling bill that will allow greyhound racing to END in FL!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBIN ROMAINE SELF FOET WHITE, FL 32038 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:07:47 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
hello Rep. Porter,
I want you to vote for decoupling the greyhound racing from general gaming in Florida. It is inhumane for the dogs, it looses money for the state, and the monies can be spent in more productive ways like teaching humane treatment of animals in schools. also for making spay/ neuter programs very very affordable.
thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LYDIA MARTIN HONOR ANIMAL BRADENTON, FL 34212 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:09:13 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please end dog racing!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRIZIA GESTRO COCONUT CREEK, FL 33073 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:12:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAIRE JACKSON TAMPA, FL 33611 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:12:46 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Please support decoupling of greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PHIL TOMPETRINI
HERNANDO, FL 34442
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:13:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
stop this horrible sport

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRIS DOWLING
CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33054
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:20:28 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I know the above may sound confusing but I am for gambling but against dog racing. This is a cruel "sport" that is being subsidized by taxpayers like myself even though we detest dog racing. I love to gamble but do not gamble at the racinos as they have kept greyhound racing afloat. Please at least allow decoupling so that gamblers will no longer be supporting dog racing. thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EMILIE JOHNSON
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:20:46 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I would like to let the committee know I support decoupling of greyhound racing. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend ~20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBYN LINENBERG
ASPCA
POMPANO, FL 33076
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:21:37 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

There is no need to have dog racing anywhere. It is cruel punishment and short life for the dogs forced into that business. I urge you to vote for decoupling to make sure that gambling places will not be required to also have dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIOLA RABELO
MIAMI BEACH, FL 33141
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:22:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please ban dog races, they are inhumane and these poor dogs are suffering.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TRICIA MURPHY NAPLES, FL 34109
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:22:16 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

PLEASE cease the suffering of greyhounds and any other racing dogs. They should not have to suffer based on a human compulsion to gamble. Allow gaming places WITHOUT dog (or horse) racing.
Thank you,
Tricia Murphy

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY ANDREWS ASPCA LAKE WALES, FL 33898
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:23:46 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I want to encourage the "decoupling" of gambling businesses in Florida so casinos don't have to be into dog-racing. Let's decouple dogs from casinos that don't want them anyway, and let the suffering dogs loose! No dog should be kept in a small cage 20 hours a day, with poor veterinarian care, substandard food, and for what? It's nuts. The idiocy that is dog-racing needs to stop. And the greyhound breeders need to go out of business.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HARRY LINENBERG ASPCA POMPADNO, FL 33076
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:23:53 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

There is no need to have dog racing in Florida. I urge you to vote for decoupling to make sure that gambling places will not be required to also have dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERICA COCO PALM BAY, FL 32909
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:24:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Specifically I would like to see greyhound racing abolished in Florida. The dogs are kept in inhumane conditions and are discarded when they're racing life is over.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANCIS REINING MYSELF MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:26:44 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Gambling for adults is perfectly acceptable since they can by and large evaluate the trade-offs of gain and/or loss and make generally mature decisions regarding their activities. Animal cruelty as a by-product is not acceptable nor necessary ingredient of gambling activity and is a coarse, and inhumane result of Greyhound racing. Florida is capable of better practices with no economic or entertainment losses.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VANNESSA NEVADER SURFSIDE, FL 33154
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:27:08 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop Dog racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CINDY ARAYA MIAMI, FL 33157
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:33:23 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support support decoupling of greyhound racing for the following reasons:
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDY JUNG NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:34:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Florida law requires any facility that has gaming operations must also offer greyhound racing. This ordinance is ridiculous! The inhumane treatment of these fragile dogs must cease. Attendance for greyhound racing is dwindling. Could it be other persons believe like I? Eliminate greyhound racing!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANGELINA MOLINA MIAMI GARDENS, FL 33055
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:37:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please, I am requesting that Dog racing in Florida be eliminate, it is cruelty to the animals.
Thank you !!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICK MAHER PALM CITY, FL 34990
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:37:52 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I support the decoupling of greyhound racing. It should be stopped. It's obvious that someone managed to include the requirement of racing dogs in order to offer other types of gambling . Leave the dogs out of it.
Thank you
P Maher

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JASON BABBITT TAMPA, FL 33609
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:38:38 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Florida still has the most tracks and the lives of these dogs is more important than this "sport" of ages past.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WENDY CAUSEY CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33067 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:41:53 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
I support decoupling of greyhound racing. Its time to end the cruelty!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY CASEY SELF NAPLES, FL 34102 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:47:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please Please end the suffering of greyhounds and follow the lead of the more progressive states. I support decoupling but more importantly demand that you end this needless suffering. This is 2013 for God's sake and you perpetuate what should now be considered barbaric.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEWEL CLARK GAINESVILLE, FL 32608 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:50:38 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Please stop greyhound races in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARTA MCLOUGHLIN 1948 SARASOTA, FL 34231 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:54:17 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please reduce or completely eliminated dog Racing in Florida. It is cruel and is no justification to keep torturing these innocent creatures

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEE JONES POMPANO BEACH , FL 33060 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:56:59 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please end greyhound racing in Florida. I have been blessed to rescue two, when I brought them home they were like toddlers, afraid of everything in the house. I had to carry the 70lb male up and down the stairs for several days until he acclimated to living in a home and not a crate. They are gentle almost cat like animals that deserve to be pets not dollar signs. Thank you for your attention to changing this law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: YUI BERMAN ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 9:58:59 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to Small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER OREM FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33314 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:00:32 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRITTANY TIBBETT LUTZ, FL 33559 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:02:38 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

As a Florida resident, I am for decoupling of greyhound racing and I urge you to recommend such. Economically, socially and morally, this business model fails our community.

Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer because they are treated like casual property.

I have long opposed the harsh treatment these dogs receive. I have worked to help rehabilitate them so I have seen the lifelong effects.

Just by looking at the economic numbers, you can see that greyhound racing has outlived it's prime and is on the quick decline. It needs to be closed down.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE RADIGAN NONE TAMPA, FL 13104 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:13:39 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is cruel. These poor animals are used and Discarded. Stop this nonsense and cruelty with coupling!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MJ WEAVER TAMPA, FL 33614
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:27:24 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please pass the legislation that will decouple live greyhound racing from other operations. There is no reason to continue the inhumane practice. Even the participants are ready to stop but the outdated Florida Law is forcing the sport to continue.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINA POSKIENE DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:27:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

These type of business should never be operated. In my opinion animals have rights as we as humans. They have to be treated with love and care.Its is absolutely disgusting that goverment still allows that kind of activity. This business have to stop ASAP.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NEIKA GARRISON ORANGE PARK, FL 32067
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:34:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please decouple greyhound dog racing from other forms of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNY WILLIAMS SARASOTA, FL 34242
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:36:33 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The gaming businesses being tied into Greyhound dog racing legally is archaic and wrong, it's time to separate the two and allow dog racing to stop while allowing the gaming business to continue.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAULA EGGERMANN MYSELF PORT SAINT JOE, FL 32456
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:37:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling for these reasons:
The forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling - dog racing and slot machines - inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks.
I strongly oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages, receiving substandard food and inadequate veterinary care.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has declined by half, with the number of states where racing is conducted reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NIC CHRISTI WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:46:37 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

There is no reason for the dogs to suffer just because people want to gamble. Decouple and release the greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

GABRIELLE SWEET
PALM HARBOR, FL 34683

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 10:51:01 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I VEHEMENTLY oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

MICHELE DENSKI
LAKE WORTH, FL 33461

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 10:53:31 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

LESLEY BUDD
TAMPA, FL 33629

Comments submitted:
11/19/2013 10:54:01 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

I am specifically against gaming places being made to have greyhound racing also. Please free the dogs who spend most of their lives in cramped cages or running, or possibly even worse. Please don't try to keep dog racing going at the expense of the dogs just to keep breeders happy. And when racing is not done anymore, please make sure the dogs are given shelter, veterinary care and happy homes. Please make sure they are well fed and cared for while being raced as well.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VICTORIA PEREZ MIAMI, FL 33137
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:58:09 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I and we need to support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. We need to oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Please help by decoupling this law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STACI-LEE SHERWOOD BOCA RATON, FL 33433
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 10:58:31 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY EMERTON WINTER HAVEN, FL 33884
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:08:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I am against the coupling of Greyhound Dog racing with other forms of gambling. These gentle dogs are confined to a crate for most of the day and only let out in a dirt run a few times per day. They do not deserve this kind of life. This is inhumane all for gambling. Please, let's put an end to this inhumane treatment of animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIELLE DZURIK TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:12:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I would like to see separation of decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. State law REQUIRES businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any other manner of gambling. This is ridiculous. Regardless of whether or not gaming is expanded, greyhound racing should be decoupled from other forms of gambling. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Dogs are often mistreated and are given inadequate conditions and vet care. The only reason some places have dog tracks is so they can support other gaming. This is inhumane to the animals involved. Florida is only one of 7 states where greyhound racing still exists. Others have outlawed it and Florida should too. The first step in that direction is to decouple it from other gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CONNOR EMERTON WINTER HAVEN, FL 33884
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:16:20 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Decouple the requirement for greyhound racing! These animals don't deserve to be put through such cruelty. Boat loads of people know of the harms done to these innocent lives and frown upon the track operators, and now the government, for these atrocities. Please fix this! It makes absolutely no sense in today's world for greyhound racing to be required in order to operate another gambling facility.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA ROBERTS PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:18:05 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I do not oppose gaming, only when it involves using dogs. Greyhounds spend most of their time in cages and are not well taken care of. It is another form of cruelty and abuse toward innocent, loving animals. It is time for us to stop dog racing and find a way for gaming to run independently of this cruel event.
Thank you for considering my comments.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MISA TASKH HIGH SPRINGS, FL 32643
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:24:37 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please consider the following:
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Do the right thing and decouple dog racing from gambling.
Thank You,
Misa Taskh, Florida resident and dog lover

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CARMEN GARDNER ASPCA FORT WHITEF, FL 32038
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:36:47 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)

Decouple greyhound racing. Its a senseless barbaric sport.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURIE HEIN CARE2 HOMOSASSA, FL 34446
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:39:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

The Greyhound racing industry needs to STOP! This form of gambling is a dying industry & in my state of Florida, the laws have not been keeping up with all the changes.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: REBECCA PARKER
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33954
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:43:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

When I heard the state of Florida requires greyhound gambling and racing for any business offering gambling services I was astounded and heart broken. I vote for this law to be decoupled immediately. Not only is this inhumane, as the dogs are typically starved and crated, causing a low quality of life, but this law requiring racing tracks is ridiculous. Even if the business does not want to offer dog racing services, our government requires them to do so. Please decouple this law.

Thank you in advance,
Rebecca Parker, M.Ed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA SEILER
ASPCA
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34653
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 11:56:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

It is inhumane to pair greyhound racing with slot machine gambling. Animals are in inhumane conditions with poor veterinary care. They are locked in cages many hours a day. We must get rid of this disgusting sport.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SILVANIA DACUNHA
CORAL GABLES, FL 33143
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:03:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

This abuse to rather animals should and must stop.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TANYA FREYMUTH
SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:11:41 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Dogs and horses should not be forced to race. Please close the the curtain race tracks and make it illegally for racing of any non-human animal!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PEGGY MARTIN
SEMINOLE, FL 33776
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:18:52 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Would you do the same please?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA SMITH
DOGS CATS HORSES
BOCA RATON, FL 33498
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:20:29 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please consider revising the gambling laws to remove the requirement that gambling licensees must hold dog track racing. Decouple this horrible practice from the gambling law so that many cruel practices in dog racing can stop. A civilized society should vote on this instead of letting a group like your make all the decisions when it comes to animal health and welfare. Please once and for all, do the right thing for our companion animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUISA PATRONI MIAMI BEACH, FL 33141
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:28:41 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

There shouldn't be any more dog race tracks in Florida. It harms the dog's health, then they end up abandoned or in the cities dog shelters. Thus, the citizen's taxes end up paying for the care and shelter where these dogs go when they are old or not needed anymore at said dog race tracks. Is very sad and is completely avoidable. No more dog racing in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT & WANDA BIRMINGHAM NONE BOCA RATON, FL 33431
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:30:41 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
Please stop this stupid racing of beautiful Greyhound dogs. They should be with families as their pets.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARION CAVANAGH ASPCA BRADENTON, FL 34210
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:36:23 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

You think these dogs are not hurting, but "in the long run", they are.
If people want to put a muzzle on something and watch it run around a track gasping to breathe then let them watch their little children do it and then we will see how they like it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TANYA PIERCE EUSTIS, FL 32736
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:37:45 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MAGGIE GARCIA
ASPCA
MIAMI, FL 33165
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:46:30 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to show my support for decoupling of greyhound racing from other forms of gaming. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo. We must fight even harder in order to win for our cause.

It saddens and amazes me that Florida forces gambling facilities to race greyhounds in order to have slot machines. How does that make any sense? Gambling and the abuse of innocent creatures should not be linked in any way. All this idiotic rule does is inflict pain on the dogs, and forces owners who do not even want to have dog racing to bow to the pressure without any benefits to them. These businesses should not be forced to hold races when all they do is lose money, while countless animals suffer.

I am against the cruel practice of confining dogs to small cages for 20+ hours per day. These dogs are used and abused. They receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food while they are useful, and then are promptly killed when they have served their purpose. But what purpose is that, really? There is none, and that is my point.

Please see the greyhound racing industry for what it is, and accept that it is dying. They are a mere 7 states left who still hold greyhound races, and that number is half what it was in 2001. The number of tracks that conduct these races have also declined by 50%. It is time to realize that allowing more innocent dogs to suffer is not going to save this industry. Many Florida residents, including myself, are counting on you to do the right thing and help free these gentle and loving dogs from their present reality of pain and misery. Each one of those dogs deserves to have a family who will love them and take care of them for the rest of their lives. They deserve the chance to live happy, healthy lives. It's only right.

Please do not delay any further, as every second you delay only means more suffering for those beautiful creatures.

Thank you for doing your part.

Sincerely,

Maggie Garcia

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL SMERLING
BOCA RATON, FL 33433
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:51:19 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please stop inhumane dog racing in our state by stopping the requirement for gaming facilities to have dog racing an essentially worthless and cruel "sport."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID KNIGHT
WINTER HAVEN, FL 33880
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:52:15 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JUDY MACKOWSKI WUFWUF2U PIERSON, FL 32180 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:10:01 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: For Information Only |

please decouple gambling and dog racing. in fact, stop supporting dog racing all together. It is a cruel and harsh life for such gentle creatures to be caged 90% of each day and in such poor living conditions. They are often killed when they become less profitable to the owner or worse yet, left to starve in the cages. Does this really have to exist in our modern times?

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARGARET BENSON PENSACOLA, FL 32563 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:15:42 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I am opposed to continued greyhound racing in the state of Florida and especially opposed to the law that compels establishments with other types of gambling to have to offer dog racing too. This is wrong. Greyhound racing is wrong because of the terrible and cruel treatment of the animals involved. I really do not care about the other forms of gambling as adults make their choices to participate. The animals have no such choice, and they suffer needlessly because of this sport which is encouraged by our gaming laws. Please end greyhound racing in Florida.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ROBERT & WANDA BIRMINGHAM NONE BOCA RATON, FL 33431 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:19:42 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Greyhounds can be wonderful pets. Why race them & subject them to a bad life. We would love to adopt one as our pet in our senior years. We are 85 & 86 ayears old & would love a pet.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JEANNETTE HARKIN 1969 NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL 32168 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:29:01 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

I support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.Please help Greyhounds at these tracks and stop the harm to them. Thank You!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LASHA WELLS SAINT PETERSBURG, FL 33707 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:35:58 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Animals should never be used for personal entertainment

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN GRODSKY DEERFIELD BEACH, FL 33442
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:48:57 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please decouple other forms of gambling from Greyhound racing.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELAINE BACKAL MS OAKLAND PARK, FL 33334
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:24:23 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Using these beautiful animals for racing is wrong and cruel.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GREGORY ESTEVE LAKE WALES, FL 33898
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:26:57 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am writing to express my support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable.

Dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I urge you to support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Thanks!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WALTER GRAUE PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:45:54 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I'm against my state's sponsoring animal cruelty, greyhound racing. Dragging your feet on the issue smacks of corruption, so take some action. This issue is not about to go away.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN LEWANDA HOLLYWOOD, FL 33020 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:54:09 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAUDIA ENGELS ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:04:54 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I urge you to de-couple dog racing from other forms of gambling. It makes no sense to require dogs races in order to allow slot machines. The two are completely unrelated, so to inflict pain on the dogs, which are kept in small cages for about 20 hrs. a day, is irrational and unjustifiable.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOYCE COPE ASPCA ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:49:19 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I want greyhound racing to be stopped in Florida. This is very cruel to the dogs. They are forced to live in small cages 20 hour a day and eat substandard food. They are destroyed once they can no longer win races. Please put an end to making these dogs sufferby stopping greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHEN THOMAS NORTH BAY VILLAGE, FL 33141 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:12:11 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of florida. why force gaming businesses to offer dog racing?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARC LATTA TAMPA, FL 33647 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:34:20 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing needs to be band in Florida. Over 8,000 dogs are victims of this sport a year. We as a State need to band this dying sport.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CARMEN ELISA BONILLA-JONES VENICE, FL 34293 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:59:46 AM |
| | | Position: For Information Only |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| Greyhound racing needs to be banned in the state of Florida. The dogs are abused and then abandoned or killed once their "careers" come to an end. Please consider not forcing gambling establishments to offer greyhound racing. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SUMMER DEVLIN NONE COCOA, FL 32926 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:31:03 AM |
| | | Position: For Information Only |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | |
| Please decouple dog racing and slot machines. Dog Racing is a dying and heartless sport and needs to be separated from the slots so it can "go away" forever in the State of Florida! | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SUMMER DEVLIN NONE COCOA, FL 32926 | Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 3:15:29 AM |
| | | Position: For Information Only |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | | |
| Please decouple dog racing and slot machines!!!!!!!!!!!!!! | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | P NUNEZ SUMMERFIELD, FL 34491 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:44:47 AM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | |
| Greyhound racing is a "dying" industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. WHY IS IT THEN, THAT FLORIDA State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling?? This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense. BUT MORE THAN THAT- it inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds!!! Dogs are being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Imagine spending YOUR LIFE confined, suffer terrible injuries. As if that is not horrible enough, these innocent creatures are often are killed once they are no longer profitable! DOG TORTURE and SUFFERING is not going to save this industry. FLORIDA IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS BARBARIC PASSTIME NOW! | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ALAN NUGENT NONE CAPE CANAVERAL, FL 32920 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:01:17 AM |
| | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | | |
| Please don't force Racinos to race greyhounds. It is inhumane to the dogs and not needed by the tracks or the customers. | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CECELIA YINGER
YINGER
THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:22:52 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
END greyhound racing and the gambling that promotes it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEB HALYE
CAVALIER KING CHARLES DOG CLUB
ORLANDO, FL 32812
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:27:45 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please stop dog racing in Florida. I am ashamed of my state that it is still in this horrendous business. Please vote to decouple dog racing from gambling. I am counting on you, Governor Scott, to stop this!! It is cruel and inhumane! Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Please stop this now!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CYNTHIA VEIGA
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:41:30 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please help improve Florida's communities by ending greyhound racing. Coupling dog racing to other forms of gambling is unnecessary and hurts countless animals. Slot machines and casinos should not be required to support dog racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAM BROWN
ASPCA
TAVARES, FL 32778
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:45:30 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I don't care about gambling, let people do whatever they want w their money BUT leave the animals out of it, they can have machines, card tables, etc... it is your job as a legislator to speak up for the good of society, we must treat animals humanely please pass a protective bill to shut this down, Florida is the only state doing nothing - black eye on a beautiful place

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAM BROWN
TAVARES, FL 32778
Comments submitted: 11/30/2013 5:31:17 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
please, do what is best for Florida regarding the gambling issue but let the dogs out of it!, people who love to gamble will gamble on anything, they will move from dogs to card tables, slot machines, football- who cares?? just protect the animals for 2 reasons- first and foremost it is the right thing to do and secondly because Florida is needing a bit of good PR I know you are busy- please remember the least of these

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEANNE TELEP FORT MYERS, FL 33908 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:02:08 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I support decoupling greyhound dog racing from other forms of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA MUHLBAUER MYSELF & ALL THAT LOVE DOGS JACKSONVILLE, FL 32259 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:02:34 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please help stop the mistreatment and use of greyhounds in conjunction with gambling for human entertainment.
Thank you, Linda Muhlbauer

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA HARDY JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:03:23 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I am for the decoupling of Greyhound racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. It is ridiculous to force businesses with gambling licenses to also operate Greyhound tracks. This out-of-date law should change. Many gambling businesses don't want the Greyhound tracks because they are not profitable and they inflict unnecessary cruelty onto the poor Greyhounds. Please change this law and help end the barbaric "sport" of Greyhound racing in Florida. We are one of only seven states in the country that still allow Greyhound racing. Let's join the rest of America and put a stop to this!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARA PATELLO SPRING HILL, FL 34611 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:04:35 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: L. FOOSE MIAMI, FL 33172 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:07:05 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Stop linking greyhound racing to track gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PHYLLIS BATOR
DOGS FOR FREEDOM
MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:08:53 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I believe dog racing is a terrible thing to do to the dogs. They are mistreated to keep their weights down. This is cruelty to animals. I know people who adopt these dogs because they are so mistreated. You can see their ribs. Please disband dog racing in Florida. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATIE GRIMMER
GREYHOUNDS
TAMARAC, FL 33321
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:14:53 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

It' about time Greyhound Racing comes to an end in Florida. Stop the cruelty and stop perpetuating this. This is one MAJOR reason I am ashamed of my state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET GONZALEZ
HOLLYWOOD , FL 33312
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:32:46 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please let's stop the greyhound races, it is in humane

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ADELA ALVAREZ
MIRAMAR, FL 33027
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:35:35 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Senate Committee on Gaming,
I support decoupling of greyhound racing. Stop creating an industry of torture and suffering of innocent animals!!! Tired of seeing corporate money going to support the lives lived in agony for greyhounds.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines is ridiculous. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I speak on behalf of those that have no voice!! I strongly oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
I pray you do what is morally right and END GREYHOUND RACING...NOW!!
Sincerely,
Adela Alvarez

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIELLE CICHETTI
OCALA, FL 34482
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:38:05 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

This is animal cruelty, and should be stopped. I am asking you to do something about it.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY MARTIN
VIERA, FL 32955
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:38:54 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling. Saving these beautiful animals from a lifetime of pain and suffering is the most important issue here.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN POST
LEESBURG, FL 34748
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:40:46 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Allow casinos that are free standing without the additional of dog tracks. There are so many folks who just go to the tracks so they can partake in casino style gambling and don't care a rats ass about the dog races. These are dogs, sweet, gentle dogs that are kept in cruel conditions. If it were a family dog kept and treated this way, the ASPCA would be rescuing the dog from the home. Why are these dogs any different? Save them and let the gamblers have their casinos.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEANNIE LEGATE
ROYAL PALM BEACH , FL 33411
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:42:35 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
Please consider ending the long, needless suffering of such a good natured creature as the Greyhoundthey have suffered under our hands too long.....DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUGLAS CASPER
NONE
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:43:35 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
I am against racing dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RAJESH NAIR
ORLANDO, FL 32839
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:49:19 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. They should be decoupled.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRADLEE WHITE
NAPLES, FL 34108
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:50:09 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I greatly oppose the continued existence of greyhound racing and the Florida statues "coupling" greyhound racing with other gambling ventures.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANNE WHITECOTTON TAMPA, FL 33602 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:51:09 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I urgently ask that you quickly pass legislation to decouple greyhound racing from other gambling in Florida. That is a ridiculous law and it needs to go NOW.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA ADELMAN MRS. DAVIE, FL 33328 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:54:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)
As an adopter of 3 sheltered greyhounds, and learning about the abominable way they are treated while racing, I am very much opposed to requiring tracks to operate racing because of the gambling on the premises. This leads to breakdown of families because of addictions and also ill-treats the greyhounds, many times with permanent injuries or even death. These dogs make fabulous family pets, are gentle, loving dogs, and even though they are born and bred to run, they can do it without gambling being involved. Most towns have dog parks for the enjoyment of the dogs and their loving humans.
Please reconsider making greyhound racing NOT a requirement or gambling establishments.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LYNNE SPOTTS PALM SPRINGS, FL 33461 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:00:03 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NINA PERINO MS. PALM HARBOR, FL 34684 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:00:05 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I support decoupling of greyhound racing. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA HARTMANN ORLANDO, FL 32803 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:01:24 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL ALESSI MELBOURNE, FL 32904 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:02:17 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please stop the racing grey hounds
Help these
Poor dogs

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL ALESSI MELBOURNE', FL 32904 Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 8:12:43 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please stop the greyhound racing. Help these poor helpless dogs that are beautifull and loveable

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE HERVIG SARASOTA, FL 34233 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:05:43 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

Please decouple greyhound racing from gambling in Florida. I am ashamed that our state continues to allow this abusive,antiquated exercise in animal exploitation and cruelty. 9

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIE RANDALL ST. PETE. , FL 33713 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:08:32 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

I have no problem with people using their money to gamble, but I don't believe that animals need to suffer when there are so many other forms of gambling available

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIM A LONGWOOD, FL 32750 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:13:39 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

stop racing these dogs for gambling... this is animal cruelty and should be punishable like any other animal abuse crime.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARISSA LEVY WESTON, FL 33327 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:15:11 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

The gambling on greyhound dogs is horrific! As someone who works at an animal hospital it is so sad to see, and even sadder that YOU know what is going in behind the scences. These dog are breed to run, once they brake a leg it can't run or hurt at all, you kill them! This is not how God intended for us to treat and care for animals. Dogs are the most domesticated animals, because their hearts are so much like ours. Please have compassion and give dog racing a rest. Please I beg of you. You make people like me live such a difficult life because our lives out destroyed and taken over trying to fix your mistakes, and everyone we can't save it takes a piece of heart each time! Please help this world become a better place. Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CARRIE MOSS ROSWELL, GA 30075 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:24:39 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY MONTERO NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34653 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:24:51 AM

Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN WALLACE GULFPORT, FL 33711 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:31:07 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

First,I am dismayed that animal welfare is not one topic option on the site..

I am writing about the greyhound races. They attract only a low life crowd as it should because the all good Floridians today agree that dogs are companion animals and not just machines oiled for gambling. if decoupling is what it takes to take a bite out of this crime against animals then decouple!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA RUIZ MIAMI, FL 33166 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:34:55 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I do not support racing & wish you would help in stopping this practice.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY NEAL INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH, FL 32937 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:39:52 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I am writing because I support decoupling of Greyhound racing. There is no reason to make dogs suffer just so someone can play slot machines. This is an inhumane process. Our state is better than this. These racing dogs are confined sometimes for 20 hours a day and not provided adequate medical care. I would think this would cause great liability to businesses who aren't making real money from the venture in any case. Across the country people have realized how cruel racing these gentle animals is. Let Florida join in that process of showing these animals empathy.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN BEST PENSACOLA, FL 32507 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:42:30 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Lets remove the dogs from the gaming issue. The dog racing industry has been eliminated in all but 7 states, Florida being one of them. It is a dying industry and nothing is going to revive it. People are aware of the cruelty (20 hrs in a cage, poor veterinary, substandard food), lets eliminate that blot from our record. I do not oppose gambling, I oppose needless cruelty. We need to step up and show our humanity, stewardship and compassion. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Thank you, Susan Best

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIN SCACCI COCONUT CREEK, FL 33073 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:43:48 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

STOP GREYHOUND RACING

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARB BUCKLAND THE STAFF OF LOVERING STUDIOS DAVENPORT, FL 33897
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:46:48 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please consider voting to eliminate or regulate greyhound racing in Florida. It perpetuates abuse and suffering and reflects upon Florida as a self indulgent state with little ethical base. If we treat these sweet animals as a gambling commodity, what does it say about our willingness to be a society that tolerates animal abuse.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CECILIA ROGERS PENSACOLA, FL 32507
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:47:07 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. I am against a practice which forces living beings to live in a cage for 20 hours a day, face improper medical care and neglect, resulting in death for many of these animals. The life they lead, if you can call it that, is nothing short of absolute misery. Shame on Florida for continuing this horrid treatment of animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM SHARPSTEEN CLEARWATER, FL 33763
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:47:37 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

You are once again reviewing dog racing in Florida - PLEASE realize that adoption groups can only absorb a limited number of greyhounds at a time. If you choose to allow the decoupling of racing and gambling at these FL tracks - STAGER the closings to a few per year, otherwise hundreds if not thousands of greyhounds will be euthanized! I implore you to understand caring people want the best for these gentle giants. I have run an adoption group for over 10 years averaging about 400 greyhound adoptions per year, but we can't and other groups can't absorb a massive amount of greyhounds to place all at once! Solution allow tracks to close by lottery 1 every 6 to 12 months. This would allow our adoption groups to find homes for the thousands of race dogs that would otherwise be killed. Thank you in advance for reading this far Blessings, Bill

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: THOMAS WESSE DAVIE, FL 33328
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:49:04 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

If someone wants to gamble let them go to a casino. Dog and horse racing in Florida is wrong. We have the highest percentage of drugged horses in the U.S that race and our poor greyhounds are mistreated and when their careers are over most are put down. We should be ashamed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TOM WESSE DAVOE, FL 33328
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:56:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

wrong, wrong exploiting innocent animals for gambling profits. And when their career is over they are most likely killed!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LOUISE MOSHER ORMOND BEACH, FL 32176
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:49:34 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please decouple greyhound racing from gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMIE WEBSTER JUPITER, FL 33458
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:53:08 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Stop dog racing!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA LOPEZ ASPCA WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33544
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:53:49 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

please stop racing dog gaming / gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIN SHEVLIN BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:54:11 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Stop dog racing. It is cruel and inhumane!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER TRIVETT FLAGLER BEACH, FL 32136
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:56:52 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ZACHARY SIDWELL BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:59:38 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am in favor of decoupling greyhound racing from other forms of gambling. I do not think they need or should be linked. I would ask the greyhound tracks, which are losing money and treat the amazing animals that support them cruelly, be closed. All other forms of gambling should subsist on their own.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY HAARNMANN GENEVA, FL 32732 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:00:46 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PETRA HOGENTOREN BOCA RATON, FL 33434 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:16:07 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Stop the Dog tracks. It doesn't make sense to let these dogs run as fast as they can just to put them later in a cage. Why they do this? Just to let people, who obviously don't have any other thing to do like work, taking care of..., volunteer or just be a valuable member of the society, gamble for money. If that is what you want, go to a casino, play slot machine or roulette, but don't let a dog's life be hard just for your pleasure!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA CASTELLANOS SELF MIAMI, FL 33145 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:18:37 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Stop Greyhound Racing ! This is animal abuse !

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RAIGAN RUPPERT DELTONA , FL 32738 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:19:24 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am not against gaming or the gaming industry, however I am against animal cruelty. However, Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
Dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Florida has more dog tracks than any other state. We are one of the highest states for dog fighting as well. Stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIE ARMAO MIAMI, FL 33155 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:20:41 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Greyhound racing needs to stop in Florida. It is horrible torture for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELODY SWEET
CAPE CORAL, FL 33909
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:24:22 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) stop promoting the suffering of animals for capital gain

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIM SONDERMAN
ASPCA
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:26:09 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBIN MILLER
FT MYERS, FL 33908
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:26:24 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I fully support the decoupling of dog tracks from gambling establishments. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. We must set an example to end the animal cruelty inherent in dog racing and promote other more profitable forms of gaming.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRUCE MILLER
FT MYERS, FL 33908
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:29:24 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. Decoupling is the best answer.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SAMI TURETSKY
ORMOND BEACH, FL 32176
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:31:07 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am very sad to live in 1 of 7 states that still has greyhound racing. The cruelty that these animals suffer every day for human entertainment and profit is disgusting. While other dogs are loved family pets, greyhounds are kept in cages and pulled out by their ears, exposed to awful injuries, and eventually destroyed when they are no longer fit to race. I very strongly support the decoupling of greyhound racing from other forms of gambling. The fact that there are such few states who still allow this barbaric activity means that we would be on the wrong side of history if we wait any longer to end this cruelty. Please do the right thing for these animals who are supposed to be "man's best friend." Breeders can find a more humane way to make their living than forcing animals to procreate.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRENDA DITRAPANI VENICE, FL 34285
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:31:44 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

My comment is about Gambling Coupling, in which Greyhound racing is required to have a gambling establishment. Not only are these laws not in common, but they just make it easier for animal abusers to neglect and kill dogs when they are no longer at their prime. This is not only cruel but the business of dog racing is on the decline. The way these dogs are housed is cruel. The way they are killed when they can no longer run at their peak is just down right cruel and inhumane. I am totally against coupling laws to throw something at the end of completely proper bills. Again, this coupling just doesn't make any COMMOM SENSE at all!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SKIP GIBSON WINTER PARK, FL 32789
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:33:38 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am not against gaming but I am FOR decoupling of greyhound racing. The lives those dogs live and the way they are treated is not right. Please consider this seriously.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARRION STEELE MYSELF WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33417
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:49:16 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Hello.
Dog Racing is cruel to the dogs. Only greedy humans enjoy it.
The law that says gambling has to have a dog race track is ludicrous!!
Gambling is ok, it brings in revenue.
But to impose cruelty on animals is immoral, unethical, sadistic.
Please rescind that law and let the dogs be at peace.
I understand that the dogs are transported from tract to tract!
Do they not get a rest??
Thank you for your humane actions.
Marrion Steele, Century Village, West Palm Beach

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DINA MCCOY MIAMI, FL 33186
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:50:06 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please end the cruel dog racing habits that are not humane. These dogs deserve to live a happy life in a home and not forced into racing until they either die from exhaustion or get thrown into the pounds. Please have a heart and think about the animals and not look at them as a quick means of money.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY PREGLER PERSONAL GLEN SAINT MARY, FL 32040
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:51:53 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Gaming commission, please put into action the decoupling change which is about to be reviewed before the end of the year. The fact that greyhound racing in this state is still legal is a blight on our beautiful state. I also know that FL leads the country in number of tracks [12] I also know that it is financially not profitable. Please do something about this! These hounds need a chance at a normal life.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDY MILLER COOPER CITY, FL 33328
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:52:53 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhounds are mistreated.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN SMITH DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:54:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please stop all dog racing. It is so unbelievably cruel.
I hate living in a state that supports this horrible business.
Susan Smith

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TAMARA HENDERSHOT MIAMI, FL 33138
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:57:36 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to voice my opinion on dog racing. PLEASE DECOUPLE ALL DOG RACING IN FLORIDA, including greyhound racing. Over the past 10 years I have lodged many rescue dogs - all types from all backgrounds. The most depressing and hardest to watch struggle with their lives are those who had raced.. Please think of the pain and suffering before you think of the money, and then make the right decision. Thank you, Tamara Hendershot

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN CHRIS JUPITER, FL 33478
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:58:25 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANNETTE ADAMS PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33026
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:58:55 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please decouple greyhound and horse racing as a requirement for other kinds of gambling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Eliminating this requirement will also prevent countless dogs from being euthanized after their careers are over (for age or poor performance) and the starvation of dogs that no one bothers to humanely euthanize by locking them in unattended kennels.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURA KOENKE SARASOTA, FL 34234
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:59:25 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am fighting for the greyhounds. The abuse that they endure behind the scenes is unbelievable. A greyhound caretaker, the one who walks the greyhound around the track told me that their owners neglect their dogs. They are full of fleas and often ticks and they are not fed a proper diet. Basically, loaded with supplements. They are really neglected or put down if they are not winners. Even the winners are neglected. We don't need this and one day it will be stopped. More and more young people are growing up and the oldies are dying off. More young people are against animal rights. Let's stop now. Thanks

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRIGIDA GUTIERREZ MIAMI, FL 33133
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:06:37 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Florida, home to 12 dog racing tracks (the most in the U.S.!). And sadly, we are aware of Florida being one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists. The State law requiring businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling makes no sense. This law inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable. Please support "decoupling," and dog racing will be reduced substantially. Thousands of dogs will be freed from constant confinement and suffering. And, thousands of constituents like myself will be proud about our Government Representatives listening to our voices in their decisions. Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: REGINA BARAKAT ORLANDO, FL 32819
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:07:08 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID HOLLISTER MR. ST PETE BEACH, FL 33706
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:07:41 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Do away with "coupling" where any gambling needs to have dog racing to qualify. Dog racing is not profitable and is not good for the dogs!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE ABRAMS DELAND, FL 32720
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:09:53 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am writing to urge you to decouple the greyhound racing requirement from other forms of gambling in the State of Florida. As an animal lover and member of the ASPCA, I believe greyhound racing constitutes animal abuse. The State of Florida should not be in the business of encouraging - never mind REQUIRING - animal abuse in the interest of allowing other types of gambling. Please stand up to the greyhound racing interests and stop this abuse. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARTI SCHICK BROOKSVILLE, FL 34613
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:12:07 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

STOP GREYHOUND RACING THEY ARE BEING ABUSED BY THE OWNERS.THEY HAVE NO CARING FOR THEM POOR INNOCENT DOGS,ALL IT IS A \$\$\$ LIFE. nO CARING OWNERS.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MINDY CUFF JUPITER, FL 33458
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:12:07 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please stop greyhound racing in Florida. It is animal abuse!!! They poor dogs suffer because stupid people want to gamble???? What is wrong with society? Please stop this torture of these beautiful dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER OLIVER WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:13:07 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support for decoupling in of dog tracks.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAIL SASNETT GAINESVILLE, FL 32608 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:14:41 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

We also need to reduce opportunities for problem gamblers and increase opportunities for them to get help.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAIL HERR PALM CITY, FL 34990 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:18:12 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I am writing to express my support for ending regulations that couple dog racing and gambling. Greyhound racing promotes animal cruelty due to the pressure of human greed which blinds owners to the welfare of the animals. The dogs become a commodity to be exploited, and are no longer seen as creatures who are entitled to freedom from pain and suffering. Currently FL laws encourage dog racing, and in fact require people who have no interest in dog racing to operate tracks. This situation encourages even more disastrous conditions for dogs. On your list of Topics to choose from for the theme of my email are Economic, Community, and Social impacts, as well as Compulsive Gambling and others. These are all good reasons to reduce gambling, which is destructive to people's lives. I am also concerned with the promotion of animal cruelty, which is a blight on our State and poisons our society for humans as well as animals. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY FOREHAND MRS. GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:22:59 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against the practice of dog racing. I do like to gamble - but I am against the use of animals to facilitate gambling. The inhumane treatment of the animals used for this purpose is appalling to me. Please make it illegal for people to exploit animals for the purpose of gaming. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDI HEFNER COCOA BEACH, FL 32931 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:25:23 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing and I vote.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AGUEDA EPPERLY PALM CITY, FL 34990 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:25:53 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please, please, vote for the decoupling of greyhound racing. Let's stop making innocents suffer, why are we still allowing this type of cruelty?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HARRIET DAMESEK ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:25:57 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) Against Expansion of Gaming
It is time for greyhound racing to stop.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAUDIA GONZALEZ MIAMI, FL 33193 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:28:24 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

Please Stop dog racing in Florida, home to 12 dog racing tracks (the most in the U.S.!). State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARTHA SULLIVAN OCALA, FL 34475 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:30:08 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Against Expansion of Gaming

This dog racing as well s Horse racing the animals suffer and all that for MONIES stop it!!!we do not need it... .. instead find something useful to do with your life Gambling to me is a sickness and has an horrible impact on humans as well as animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEVIN GIBSON FORT MYERS, FL 33906 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:31:23 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Against Expansion of Gaming

Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling. I oppose dogs being forced to spend 20 hours a day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUZANNE KOZAITIS INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH, FL 32937 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:34:53 AM
Position:
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Against Expansion of Gaming

I am writing about your inhumane cruelty. Making noble greyhounds race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer terribly. I oppose greyhounds being forced to spend 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Using these beautiful animals as business pawns is simply not ethical.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ARLETTE EHRLICH
SELF
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:37:35 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO NEED TO HAVE GREYHOUND RACING FOR GAMBLING PURPOSES. THERE ARE ENOUGH DIFFERENT TYPES OF GAMBLING GOING ON IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THESE DOGS SHOULD LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES OUT OF CAGES, & SHOULD HAVE A MEANINGFUL, HAPPY LIFE.
THANK YOU,
ARLETTE EHRLICH

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELLE ZANG
TAMPA, FL 33626
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:45:13 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Decouple greyhound racing and slot machine gambling.
The state law that requires greyhound racing to be offered with other unrelated gambling forms is inhumane and makes no sense in today's marketplace.
The general public now understands that the dogs involved suffer in substandard living conditions and are often cruelly disposed of when their usefulness is perceived to be up. There is no longer enough interest in racing for it to be profitable. Times have changed. The law needs to change as well.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TIFFANY MAY
TAMPA, FL 33606
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:58:01 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL SARDO
GREENACRES, FL 33463
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:00:09 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. Forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Plus Greyhound racing is a dying industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHANNON SWEINHART MELBOURNE, FL 32901
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:02:55 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL LARRABEE THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:10:58 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

There should never be any kind of dog racing. It is barbaric and cruel. This must stop now and let these dogs be adopted. I live in an area that adopts many of these dogs. STOP NOW!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DORIAN CANALIZO NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:19:10 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling. It is time politicians help animals instead of business. Sometimes you just have to do the right thing and not what makes you money!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LILLIAN CRAIG MYSELF ORLANDO, FL 32828
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:29:29 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

protect these dogs. They are God's creatures and deserve to live and be protected

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANIE BIFULCO NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:32:59 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

To Stop the inhumane treatment of these dogs before, during and after their races. Also, after their short span of racing years!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: THE REV. SUSAN BUBBERS CELEBRATION, FL 34747
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:33:42 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling dog racing from gaming.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
 - I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
 - Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
- Please decouple dog racing from gaming.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID CAPPA WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33412 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:35:26 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The life dog racing offers dogs is a horrific fate of death when no longer a champ.They are not loved ,they are used for the satisfaction of betting.Thier living conditions are deploreable ..it is time to end all dog racing !People need a more productive outlet..choose boxing,,Boxers at least have a choice and aren't killed when they loose.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARCY GOMEZ MIAMI, FL 33018 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:50:11 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

This should be stopped. These animals need our voices, as they can not speak for themselves

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRIAN BAILEY N/A PLANTATION, FL 33317 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:58:00 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I believe that dog and horse racing tracks should be allowed to continue current gaming operations without requiring live racing. This would eliminate unacceptable animal abuse.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I vehemently oppose forcing dogs to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
After all, greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Please help change the law in order to end this needless activity. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANNA PYLANT MIRAMAR, FL 33027 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:05:45 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against tying a living creature's plight in life to a gambling slot machine's existence. They are NOT Equal. I donot want greyhounds treated like things,no matter any Legal Classification, they are feeling living creatures and can be loving pets and family members to many people. They should and must be treated and cared for as such,but alas often they are treated like machines. I donot want their fate tied to gaming machines and consider it cruel and inhumane. I cannot support this type of gambling parimutuel feature affecting these innocent sweet greyhounds in a negative manner.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FILENE LEHMAN LAKE WORTH, FL 33460 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:07:00 PM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I oppose ANY gaming at the expense of animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GLORIA NOVA-FUSON MRS. SARASOTA, FL 34240
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:11:00 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Florida is only 1 of 7 states that make it mandatory to make dogs race in order to allow slot machines. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I strongly oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food, only to be added to the unwanted dog population when they can no longer perform. Please end this atrocious mandate!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANGELIC RODRIGUEZ WEST PARK, FL 33023
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:18:05 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

gray hound racing is just another form of slavery and animal abuse stop it now !

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAULINE BURKHART SAINT JOHNS, FL 32259
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:20:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

please stop grey hound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BONNIE HARBAUGH VALRICO, FL 33596
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:24:00 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I strongly support decoupling of dog racing from other forms of gambling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. Having had the pleasure of sharing my home with four retired racing greyhounds over the last 12 years, I'm appalled by dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Thank you in advance for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.
Bonnie Harbaugh

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KANDIE LECLAIR ORTIZ DAVIE, FL 33314
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:25:58 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please stop the torture of grayhounds!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WENDY MELSON MISS PENSACOLA, FL 32505
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:27:13 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

WIN OR DIE ! IS THE RULE DOG TRACKS LIVE BY PLEASE STOP THE ABUSE ENOUGH DOGS HAVE SUFFERED AT THEIR HANDS

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROLYN FIELDS INDIVIDUAL KENNESAW, GA 30152
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:28:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please de-couple greyhound racing in Florida. I have seen first hand the badly damaged dogs that are exploited in the cruel "sport".

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHANNAH OLSHER DELRAY BEACH, FL 33445
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:28:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY TURNER MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32953
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:40 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I have worked with greyhound rescue for 8 years and have seen first hand how the greyhounds are treated. Living in a crate for 22 to 23 hours a day is inhuman.
Why would the Florida state government want to pay greyhound race tracks good money every year when the sport is in decline.
Pass the bill to decouple mandatory dog racing with card gambling. Its a win for the greyhounds and for the state.
The dog tracks that are making money with racing will still race and the dog tracks that are not making money will stop racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RANIE DOYLE PANAMA CITY, FL 32404
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I dont think people should make money from raceing dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEONORA XHROUET DAVIE, FL 33328
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:41 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Racing of greyhounds should be banned forever everywhere. These dogs are not treated the way dogs should be treated. They are companion animals not a commodity to make money for their owners. When their racing careers are over many are put down and this is just WRONG. Stop this practice in our state and hopefully everywhere!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL JUDSON PRIVATE CITIZEN WILLISTON, FL 32696
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:41 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am in favor of NOT decoupling Greyhound racing. Greyhounds have been bred for hundreds of years for racing. It's in their blood, just like a Border Collie is hard wired to herd.

The claims of widespread abuse from the groups against Greyhound Racing is so completely untrue it should be laughable. The goal of a race is to come in first. There is NO WAY an animal will run if he doesn't WANT to. There is no way an underfed, under exercised, miserable, abused, animal can finish first.

Race animals are kept in supreme condition, with immaculate living conditions to keep in top physical and mental condition. It would be counter productive to keep them in any other way.

Racing Greyhounds are raised with their mothers and litter mates for months, in large turnout pens to play and develop properly. (In contrast the average pet at home probably was re-homed at 6-8 weeks, spends 8-12 hours in a crate at home waiting for the family to come home from work.)

Greyhound owners and trainers were the first to develop Greyhound adoption and they adopt out 90% of the dogs bred. The last 10% go back to the farm to raise the next generation or are kept as pets by the trainers and owners. PLEASE visit racing kennels for yourself before passing judgement on the industry. These dogs are out of their crates more than household pets usually are and the crates they live in could house a Great Dane comfortably.

Animal rights groups are working to eliminate pet ownership. Eliminating highly regulated Greyhound racing will reduce the population (over time) to an unsustainable level, thus eliminating the Greyhound breed.

I own 3 cousins to the Greyhound (Borzoi) and have been behind the scenes in a low-end kennel at Derby Lane. Even in the lowest winning kennel, the dogs were well cared for, well fed, and happy. The meat they eat is better looking than what I see in the grocery store!

PLEASE keep Greyhound racing alive and well in Florida, the dogs love it!

Thank you,
Carol Judson, pet owner, Voter

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RUTH GRIFFITH MARGATE, FL 33063
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

There is no humane reason to justify the use of these regal creatures for a gambler's purposes and for making money. This practice should have been outlawed long ago.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DR. MARY HEUBERGER
SELF
MELBOURNE, FL 32941
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Being so CRUEL to dogs to use them to make money from those who bet on them as to which one can win a race is HORRENDOUSLY CRUELTY on these suffering animals.

PLEASE END THE DOG RACING!

Thank you,

Dr. Mary Heuberger

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEAN ANN MARWICK
MYSELF
DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:45 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I want to see gambling uncoupled from Greyhound racing, which is the cruelest "sport". The greyhound owners make up a very strong lobbying group but you must see passed that and think about the animals involved. They are made to race, have miserable lives, are not treated well and it is known (and has been known for many years) that these animals should not be racing just so that someone can make money from the race. Greyhounds make wonderful pets and that is exactly what they should be- pets, not slaves to racing.

I ask that you look into why we have so many racing tracks in FL (more than in any other State) and see if there is a way, folks can gamble on machines and not on races. Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON LACHOWICZ
DAVIE, FL 33314
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:45 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please do away with "decoupling" - Innocent greyhound dogs are being mistreated because the law states casinos must have racing - the owners of the dogs are not making money anymore so they are mistreating and abusing these animals because they must have them but they don't want them and don't want to spend money to take care of them

PLEASE STOP GREYHOUND RACING NOW!!!

Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN ESTEL
LAND O LAKES, FL 34637
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:46 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is a dying sport—but it's not dying fast enough in Florida, which is home to 12 tracks. Even though dog racing is generally not profitable, it persists in Florida because of a strange state law that requires businesses offering any type of gambling to also operate Greyhound tracks. Some of these companies don't even want to continue to offer dog racing—but our state government is making them!

I implore the Florida Senate Gaming Committee to make recommendations to the Florida Legislature for changes to the law. I favor decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling!

Thousands of dogs will be freed from constant confinement and suffering. Thousands of these young dogs will no longer be euthanized for the simple fact that they are no longer winning races.

Please make me proud to live in a state that has stopped this ridiculous law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA WILLIS ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:46 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Dog racing is cruel, the owners are only interested in making money not about the welfare of the poor dogs.....and it is gambling which leads to crime.....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RUTH KRIEGER ASPCA MEMBER BOCA RATON, FL 33434 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:47 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Using "man's best friend" as sport and gambling device sends a message to young people. Surely there are places where children live and these unfortunate animals are present. One aspect of early detection of emotional disturbance in a child is the child's cruelty to animals. Is it not enough to cause horses to suffer for gaming? The greed of humans to make money an easy way is prevalent in today's society. Gambling, alcoholism, and drugs are all addictions which may lead to the destruction of a family.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY TURNER FLAGLER BEACH, FL 32136 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:51 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I have seen Greyhounds that have been adopted, after they got too old or tired to run, and they are pathetic. They are beaten down in body and spirit. It won't stop as long as there are people to make money off them. Isn't there just one legislator out there willing to stand up to greed for the sake of these animals? I hope so.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY JONES JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:53 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Hi,
I am emailing today to convey my disappointment that Florida still allows greyhound dog racing to occur. I believe it is common knowledge that these dogs suffer terrible lives, living in confined cages, no other interaction and death when they are no longer useful. I've just learned that most gambling places have dog racing because of "coupling". That state law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This is unbelievable and I hate to use this word, but it's unacceptable. I am hoping that in the new year, dog racing will be banned. But if that can't be done, at least decouple the two and allow casinos can run their business without having this barbaric practice in place.
I can imagine the dog breeders who breed greyhounds for this sport will be fully opposed. But, please can we move forward from the groups making money from the suffering of other beings.
Thank you for your attention in this matter.
Regards,
Katherine Jones

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ADAM FELCYN ORLANDO, FL 32826
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:34:53 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please, stop the dog-racing in Florida. These are not willing participants and they are not properly compensated for the vast amount of work they are forced to endure for their masters. This is supposedly a land that embraces freedom. Well, let's truly embrace freedom not just when it benefits us, but also when it benefits those that we would benefit from exploiting, undermining, or stealing from. When a dog voluntarily enters him or herself into a race to claim the prize of potentially winning, then we can ethically bet on it, but not until then. We may as well just rebuild the Colosseum again if we're going to continue forcing dogs to race and train for our entertainment.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHLEEN SLAVEN MS. CLEARWATER BEACH, FL 33767
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:38:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

End this cruelty to a sweet species of dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: THERESA SUMRALL GAINESVILLE, FL 32601
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:40:13 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dog racing is a cruel and abusive industry. Please decouple greyhound racing from gambling licenses.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LILY SANTIAGO KISSIMMEE, FL 34759
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:44:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I have to say what is on my mind. I completely oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. I live in a society where we are and believe to take care of all God's children, animals included. We take dogs and cats into our homes to give them a loving and nurturing life. But when I see that dogs are being abused just like in this case where Greyhounds are being forced to live in cages and then later fed some drug in order to participate in a race to win, makes me sick to my stomach. Greyhound racing is a dying industry, I am a native here in Florida and wish with all of my heart that you put a stop to this outrage! Thank you so much in helping to change the lives of these wonderful loving creatures.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHANA GERWENS LAND O LAKES, FL 34638
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:45:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop Greyhound racing. It is inhumane and unnecessary for animals to suffer for the entertainment of humans, especially illegal activity.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: R BUBELLO BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33472 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:48:28 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
Grey Hounds should not be caged these loving animals need good homes and not abuse. Not caging Grey Hounds might indirectly help a chronic gambler.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GIN WILSON MARGATE, FL 33063 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:52:43 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
Please consider changing the laws that support greyhound racing in FL

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA MACHADO ORLANDO, FL 32825 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:54:44 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I support the decoupling of greyhound racing. Dogs are suffering and are not well kept. I oppose dogs kept up to 20 hour in small cages, where they don't receive adequate food or veterinary attention. Please stop greyhound racing all together.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STAN FUSON LMHS SARASOTA, FL 34240 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 12:54:59 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
If the only way gaming can be expanded is by coupling it with dog racing, then it's not worth it. I own a racing greyhound. She raced for a year, then was put into a rescue kennel. These dogs are abused and are only valued when they win. They don't know how to be a puppy because they were kept in crates and only taken out to race. My dog still loves to run, but she also know love, for once in her life.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANE STEINLEN TAMPA, FL 33618 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:04:38 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Good Morning,
I am writing to you in response to a call to action from the ASPCA regarding greyhound racing in our State. I would like to add my voice to those who would like to see gambling decoupled from dog racing. We have made such great strides in animal protection in Florida, I hope you will make the recommendation to the Florida Legislature to change the law, so that greyhounds no longer have to suffer so folks can play poker or the slots.
Thank you for your attention.
Sincerely,
Jane Steinlen

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUCY ASHER KISSIMMEE , FL 34759 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:14:16 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

GET RID OF GREYHOUND RACING PLEASE...Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL HALL WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:14:59 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

All dog racing should be banded in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARSHA J HOLBERT DEERFIELD BEACH, FL 33442 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:15:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

someone needs to take charge to stop the greyhound racing practice in florida. i am a resident of florida since 1981. these poor creatures need our voice to stop the cruelty of this practice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES LANIER GAINESVILLE, FL 32606 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:18:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER HANSEN SEBASTIAN, FL 32958 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:18:31 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

PLEASE DECOUPLE GREYHOUND RACING FROM GAMBLING. THESE POOR DOGS HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA YOUNG
ASPCA
PALM COAST, FL 32137
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:21:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I believe that greyhound racing should be abolished. These animals are forced to race while they are young and fit, but when they get older, they are abandoned. Many are lucky enough to be adopted, but many are not. Please work to cancel this deplorable practice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELAINE RAYNOR
PINE RIDGE, FL 34465
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:26:30 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Businesses should not be forced to hold dog races, they lose money and dogs suffer. After the dogs "fulfill" their racing duties they are thrown away like garbage. This is unethical and immoral.
End the dog races.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANE CAUDLE
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL 32086
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:38:15 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I strongly favor decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling; here are some reasons:

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DANIELLE FOLSOM
SHAMILAR, FL 32579
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:41:45 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I am in favor of gaming establishments, as they have been shown to raise revenue for communities. However, I'm vehemently opposed to gaming that involves live animals, e.g. Dog and horse tracks. In their pursuit of profit, track owners use and abuse these animals and this practice does not benefit the community and the tracks should be closed. In this era of modern technology, the dog and horse track races can be more ethically (and cheaply) accomplished using the well-regulated video industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORI KIDD FORT MYERS, FL 33912 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:46:47 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

My concerns are in regarding to the existing, out dated laws that require businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable. Greyhound racing has become unpopular thanks to an educated public regarding how these animals survive. Most of the business who are forced to hold races don't want any further part of them. It's a loosing bet any way you look at it. I feel overall that the last things Florida needs is more gambling. We've all seen what these local casinos look like and more importantly, the towns around them. Their dumpy and crime ridden. Florida can't afford any more "colorful" areas full of crime.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELISSA ALLEN MRS. PALMETTO BAY, FL 33157 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 1:52:01 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Thank you for considering my comments.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIMITRA ARNESON NAPLES, FL 34113 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:02:04 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONALD SQUIRE OAKLAND PARK, FL 33309 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:02:49 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Gaming, in general, is acceptable to me. What I am writing about is to request that the decoupling of the requirement where greyhound [or any dog] racing is a part of other gambling forms!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RUBY TROIANO NAPLES, FL 34109 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:17:35 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please stop exploiting Grehounds in racing/gambling . They are abused!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBBIE VERMEAL AGAINST GREYHOUND RACING JUITER, FL 33458 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:26:33 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against using Greyhounds for Racing and Gaming because you are not looking at the numbers of innocent dogs who are being put to death because we cannot adopt them out fast enough to make a difference. It is pathetic that we continue this barbaric treatment to the dogs. Enough is enough. STOP THIS NOW!!! BE HUMANE...

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HENRY MEDINA TAMPA, FL 33625 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:31:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

close down all dog tracks immediately. these animals are abused in the name of gambling and for the personal enjoyment of people with an addiction to gambling. there are so many of these dog tracks and then the dog`s are not taken care of once they are retired or cannot race any more.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA PERRY MS. FRUITLAND PARK, FL 34731 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:35:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

What does the welfare of dogs have to do with gambling? Why does Florida have to race Greyhounds in order to have slots, cards, etc? It is time to stop this atrocity and put the poor creatures into homes where they belong! Just because this has been going on for decades does not make it right!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA TURNER SANFORD, FL 32771 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:44:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The dog track racing needs to be stopped. How many more dogs are going to have to be breed to bear puppies meant for the track. Of the puppies born, only the fastest go to the track.....the others.....who knows what happens to them. The ones that go to the tracks are kept in horrible living conditions and transported in those hot, tiny little trucks. And if they loose too many races, what happens to them then? Greyhounds are loveable dogs. Have you ever spent time with one?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ARNOLD GREVIOR FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 2:54:03 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

dog racing needs to be eliminated. The only ones for it are the dog breeders.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT KEISER S. MIAMI, FL 33143
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:08:35 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA REINKING PANAMA CITY BEA, FL 32413
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:25:35 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I would PLEASE beg you to PLEASE consider decoupling of dog racing with gambling locations not just for the life and health of these dogs, but also for the health and welfare of your constituents with dog- love in their hearts. Dog racing is inhumane and promotes sadness in our hearts. Please consider the following information:

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks.

STOP THIS!

Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. STOP THIS!

These dogs are being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. STOP THIS!

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. STOP IT NOW!

Please consider these points and let these dogs live withOUT this cruelty.

I thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIZABETH COCCIA ASPCA LARGO, FL 33770
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:39:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I believe that gaming is just as cruel and inhumane as dog fighting and should be banned. This business breeds and discards animals that they deem useless which in turn creates more homeless animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMI JAMBUSARIA ORLANDO , FL 32819
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:44:57 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am in favor of decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIANNE VAN SICKLE ASPCA NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:52:38 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop Greyhound Racing in the state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRIAN PARADISE PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:55:23 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CYNTHIA CRAWFORD FORT MYERS, FL 33901
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 3:57:05 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please decouple slot machines and greyhound races. Allow the slots while allowing these long suffering dogs to be adopted into loving homes.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JACQUELINE HIATT TAMPA, FL 33629
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:01:53 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

This is in regard to decoupling greyhound racing from other types of gambling and then stopping the practice. As a first hand witness of the neglectful way in which these creatures are treated I would beg you all to ban it. These dogs are so badly handled and allowed to suffer. It is as abusive as dog fighting. Please consider the elimination of this practice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GABRIELA LARRUCEA ACWORTH, GA 30102
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:04:39 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

the only think I can said is the dogs are no for racing. why use animals like that

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN FIGURSKI
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:05:04 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am all for casinos with slots and black jack , but please no more dog racing in FL , these dogs are treated so cruelly and given up or shot after they no longer can race . it is a barbaric and inhumane sport please take the steps to stop dog racing in Florida
thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EDWARD CUBERO
MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:12:24 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

TAKE CARE OF THESE FINE RACING DOGS.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID MAGLIARO
NORTH BAY VILLAGE, FL 33141
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:13:49 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I urge you to decouple racing and gaming for the sake of the thousands of dogs kept confined, made to suffer and then, sadly, euthanized. Casinos will stand on their own without dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAUDIA MEDINA
HOLLYWOOD , FL 33019
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:14:39 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Two important pieces of legislation need to be passed in order to help greyhounds. The first is a proposal that would decouple greyhound racing and remove the state dog racing mandate, which is basically a subsidy program for out-of-state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in Florida.

A greyhound protection group is also calling on lawmakers to require greyhound injuries to be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states that do not report this information. In order for people to learn about how cruel this sport is, they need to know about how often these animals are injured.

Please contact the Florida Senate Gaming Committee today and encourage it to pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs. Use this form.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RON WENTWORTH
NOKOMIS, FL 34275
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:16:24 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I strongly encourage you to pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect greyhound racing dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TARA ANDREWS
INDIALANTIC, FL 32903
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:18:03 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I'm opposed to any gaming/gambling if it involves greyhound racing. It is deplorable how they're treated & is completely unnecessary for any type financial gain.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBBIE STONE
RESCUE
ARCADIA, FL 34266
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:19:19 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please stop the Greyhound dog racing. I worked for a veterinarian that did track work every weekend here in Florida and he ended up quitting after just a couple of weeks due to the cruelty and abuse that goes on behind the scenes. Please stop this awful sport.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MONIQUE GUGGINO
TAMPA, FL 33624
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:19:19 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIANNA MIZELL
PETA
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:22:27 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Grey Hound injuries: I'm an avid animal lover and any kind of animal abuse is unacceptable...Please bring harsher punishment to animal abusers and especially Pit bull fighters and abusers.....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARYJO LUU
MRS.
SARASOTA, FL 34236
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:23:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Dear Gaming Committee,
I encourage you to pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs.
Thank you very much.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARCELLA DEJESUS
ASPCA
MIAMI GARDENS, FL 33014
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:25:39 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)
Please we need to stop these animals from getting hurt !!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BOBBI HILL
VENICE, FL 34293
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:29:24 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I am against Gaming. Particularly, Greyhound Racing in ANY State.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRISTIE SCOTT ORLANDO, FL 32803
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:39:24 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please decouple greyhounds racing. Or, better, ban greyhound racing all together. Let Florida be known for doing something positive!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON BREYMAN TAMPA, FL 33647
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:49:20 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

It makes absolutely no sense to require a business that allows gambling to also have greyhound racing. I have always opposed Greyhound Racing and luckily, it's popularity has gone down in recent years. Many times the greyhounds are "discarded" like trash after they can no longer race. Hopefully, in 10 years all dog tracks will be closed down. Please reconsider what you're asking the current gambling businesses to do, and don't take this action.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GLORIA CARDONA AVENTURA , FL 33180
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:53:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please stop using animals in gambling

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HEATHER ACONE DELRAY BEACH, FL 33445
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:56:24 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I haven't begged anyone for anything before, however, I beg of you now, to please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs. I hope you are able to see, as human beings, that this is simply cruel and wrong.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GABRIELLE LENNON MS. SARASOTA, FL 34231
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 4:59:21 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please protect dogs -- the greyhounds involved in this. This "sport" is inhumane even as it is. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GILBERT PANZER
OCEAN RIDGE, FL 33435
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:02:26 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MERRY BECKETT
MRS.
NAPLES, FL 34114
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:03:22 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I strongly oppose dog racing and would like to see it totally eliminated in the state of FL. It is a cruel industry where dogs are forced to spend many hours confined in cages and not given proper veterinary care and fed substandard food.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SYLVIANE MAHAUX
MRS.
BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33437
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:17:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please , have compassion for those gorgeous dogs ! They are not our to use and then to throw when they are no more profitable . We are in the 21 st century ! Stop those barbaric races !

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CRISTINA VAZQUEZ
GREENACRES, FL 33463
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:18:37 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

If your a dog lover the way I am. Let's these dogs find loving homes instead of running around in circles for gambling purposes. I don't even like gambling because of my uncle habitat.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FABRIZIO SAPIEN
ORLANDO, FL 32814
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:23:37 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

This is to let you know that I support decoupling of greyhound racing. Why have to tie the lives of animals in order to make it "legal" to be able to gamble. I have no issue with just gambling , the issue is the poor animals well being so please change the laws lets free these poor dogs and allow gambling to be on it's own.

Thanks

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUG TOOMBS ORLANDO, FL 32828
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:27:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DOUG TOOMBS ORLANDO, FL 32828
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:58:50 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please support greyhound decoupling and support greyhound injury reporting. These issues are important to me, so I ask you to cast a humane vote for the dogs. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LYNN PUCCIO COOPER CITY, FL 33330
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:32:32 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I see no sense in the useless suffering of innocent greyhounds for the benefit of casino gambling. Casino gambling is a totally different venue than dog racing. To keep these dogs in cages for twenty hours pr day with sub standard care while people are enjoying gambling 24/7 is cruel and inhumane. Please do something to end this situation. In the name of humanity, do the right thing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RICKY BUTTERY MR. COCOA, FL 32927
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:33:29 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am against greyhound racing due to the cruelty of it...I am for expanding gaming like slot machines..The state of Florida should consider the taxes to be made off slots instead of the unregulated ships to nowhere taking it in...

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CARLA J ESPOSITO N/A PINELLAS PARK, FL 33782
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:47:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

In response to an email from the ASPCA I am writing to put my vote in against dog racing. I have heard that it is not a money maker any more, so why require it to be held at the locations that have other gambling events. Personally I don't see where people get the money to gamble these days anyway. Stop the abuse of the greyhound.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TINA BAILEY ALVA, FL 33920
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:47:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Do whatever you need to do to get the greyhounds out of this. People can bet on each other, on cards, on dice, whatever, but not on living animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA CUNNIFF JACKSONVILLE, FL 32257
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:14:18 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am expressing my support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable. The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists. Please make the right decision for the dogs and the state of Florida. Thank You

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOSEPH RUISI CAPE CORAL, FL 33993
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:15:46 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race to allow slot machines make no sense. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Now is the time to simply end dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARON GATHAGAN FT MYERS, FL 33919
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:16:38 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

PLEASE STOP GREYHOUND RACING AS A REQUIREMENT FOR OTHER GAMBLING. IT'S INHUMANE TO RACE THESE SPECIAL DOGS.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDY SEATON MIAMI, FL 33173
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:16:54 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Stop greyhound racing.....it is cruel!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HOMARA ZELEDON MIAMI, FL 33176
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:19:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMY STRICKHOUSER ORLANDO, FL 32803
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:22:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

This is the time to help greyhounds!
Two important pieces of legislation need to be passed in order to help greyhounds!
I feel strongly that it should be required that greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states that do not report this information. Let's catch up Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JILL NEECE
BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33437
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:35:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please put an end to the mistreatment of greyhounds

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TANIA GUTIERREZ
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:36:54 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Stop the cruelty

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MERI GALANTIS
ST.PETERSBURG, FL 33707
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:39:17 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please stop archaic greyhound racing!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANK VAIO
DORAL, FL 33178
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 6:42:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Two important pieces of legislation need to be passed in order to help greyhounds. The first is a proposal that would decouple greyhound racing and remove the state dog racing mandate, which is basically a subsidy program for out-of-state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in Florida. A greyhound protection group is also calling on lawmakers to require greyhound injuries to be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states that do not report this information. In order for people to learn about how cruel this sport is, they need to know about how often these animals are injured.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE SCHWARTZ
LOXAHATCHEE, FL 33470
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:01:35 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I'm most concerned about the poor greyhounds who suffer terribly for no good reason. Not to mention, the real rabbits and other game killed to train the dogs who suffer.

Let's put an end to this barbaric practice.

For the record, I think gambling serves no good as well.

How many individuals and particularly their families have suffered because of a family members addiction to gambling?

Florida has more gambling than it needs.

Sincerely,

Christine Schwartz

Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAIGE SCHWARTZ
PETA
LAKE PARK, FL 33403
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:03:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Protect our greyhounds. Stop this inhumane treatment now.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA BRACCI
COCONUT CREEK, FL 33066
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:04:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Im writing about Greyhounds Races. They are cruel and cause misery for the involved animals. We shall end this unnecessary process and stop Greyhounds from being exploited and harmed. The regulations must be changed so no Greyhound races are required in order for gambling of other kinds to have place. Gambling industry does not need to harass animals this way. As animal lover I am strongly against this practices and I'm calling for a change in the law in the state of Florida. It's a shame that to this day nothing has been done to stop Greyhound Racing !!!!!!!!!!!!! It's a legalized form of cruelty and we should end it immediately. There is no place for such establishments in a civilized society.Lisa Bracci

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN WINTERS
CONSUMERS
TAMPA, FL 33604
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:15:49 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

It's past time to help greyhounds in this cruel industry.
Two important pieces of legislation need to be passed in order to help greyhounds. The first is a proposal that would decouple greyhound racing and remove the state dog racing mandate, which is basically a subsidy program for out-of-state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in Florida.
A greyhound protection group is also calling on lawmakers to require greyhound injuries to be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states that do not report this information. In order for people to learn about how cruel this sport is, they need to know about how often these animals are injured.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELLE PROULX
TAMPA, FL 33616
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:29:53 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Stop greyhound racing in FL

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JANINE HARDIN SELF NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL 32168 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:45:09 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I would like to express my opinion about dog racing. First of all, I think gambling and gaming via slots and tables should be legalized across Florida. Why should citizens be pouring their money into other states (e.g., Nevada, Mississippi) and venues (cruise ships) because there are so few casinos in Florida? But the point of my comment is that allowing gaming to take place via slot machines and tables should not require dog racing as a prerequisite. Dog racing is old news and is no longer the draw it once was. To force those beautiful dogs to endure the captivity, over-breeding, substandard living conditions, and cruel treatment to further the cause of casino gambling is ludicrous to say the least. In reality, individuals who play the slot machines will have no interest in betting on dog races. Therefore, there is no cost-benefit to continuing dog racing--statistics show that since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Allow dog racing to go the same direction as jai alai and move on to more lucrative and attractive casino gaming..

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LINDA HARSIN GULFPORT, FL 33707 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 7:48:39 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

stop greyhound racing

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DELLA ATTISANI FLORIDA VOTERS CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33071 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:12:25 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I am adamantly against GREYHOUND racing. The safe guards for the dogs are constantly ignored and waived. It must be stopped altogether. No animal should ever have to live such a life of misery.
STOP GREYHOUND RACING FOREVER--now!

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|---|---|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | GAIL BIRNEY PALM COAST, FL 32137 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:13:51 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I am concerned about the use of greyhound racing to keep slot machines and gaming facilities open. As a young adult I worked at a greyhound race track and witnessed the horrors of the dog racing industry. It is a dying industry and many dogs are suffering. I would like to see dog racing removed through decoupling. It just makes no sense to continue to support a dying industry. I am not against gambling. Businesses should not be forced to hold races and lose money in order to allow slot machines. Thank you for your consideration of ending this cruel industry.
Gail Birney

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|---|--|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LADY LAMAS MIAMI, FL 33165 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:16:55 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | Position: For Information Only |

Animal protection bills

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLES GOODWIN HIGH SPRINGS, FL 32655 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:23:25 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please decouple the statutory requirement for gambling establishments to offer dog racing. Dog racing is a dying spectator sport, often times cruel to the animals and rarely desired by the businesses. It seems so logical in one sense and so kind and gracious in another. I can't imagine any political blowback.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MANDY BECK TAMPA, FL 33606 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:35:56 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN BRERETON TAMPA, FL 33606 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:38:11 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MALENA STEWART ORLANDO, FL 32806 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:44:56 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dog or any other animals should not be used for human entertainment!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY SCOTT JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 8:55:22 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BEVERLY LANE MS. PALM BAY, FL 32909
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:01:44 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Florida: Help Free Thousands of Greyhounds from Misery at the Dog Track!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA WYMAN DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:05:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I would like to mention that it s a cruel life that greyhounds live as racers. Please vote to decouple greyhound racing and remove the state dog racing mandate and make sure that any injuries have to be reported. Thank you, Linda Wyman

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HOLLY BETKE TAMPA, FL 33606
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:10:38 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

The state of Florida is well behind others in the act of decoupling greyhound racing. This casts a poor light on our state. By maintaining greyhound racing so that other forms of gambling can persist, the perception that we support gambling and the poor treatment of animals for our entertainment is portrayed to the rest of the nation. The sport is already dying. Please help speed up the process and in turn, clean up our failing state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN WALDBART WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33544
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:31:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dog racing should be oppose because dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIORA DAVIS PLANTATION, FL 33317
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 9:35:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect these dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDI TRECARTIN HOLIDAY, FL 34691
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:25:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please protect the greyhounds

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUCILLE ROMANO MRS. THE VILLAGES, FL 32162
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:32:39 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

thank you very much, Lucille Romano

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELANIE MERCURIO NAPLES, FL 34108
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:37:10 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Report greyhound injuries!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIE MIRO MIAMI, FL 33137
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:38:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please stop greyhound racing!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENNIS WOLFF MR. CAVE SPRINGS, AR 72718
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:01:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Moral code- Do the right thing. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NALEENE DAVIS ORLANDO , FL 32838
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:11:00 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please put an end to dog track racing it's very cruel and needs to be stopped. Dog are for companionship and they need to be loved and taken care of.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEE HARO FORT MYERS, FL 33919 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:20:41 PM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please review your policies on coupling of dog tracks and card rooms. Let the dogs have some rest and get rid of this ancient form of entertainment. Thank you for your time.
Lee

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAWN SMITH PALM COAST, FL 32137 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:22:26 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop Dog Racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HOLLY COLLIER ANNA MARIA, FL 34216 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:33:16 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Shut down dog tracks! It is evil and inhumane to treat these sweet animals with callous disregard. All creatures great and small God created them all!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIMBERLY ARROLIGA MIAMI, FL 33018 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:44:26 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop this and let them be free.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNAFER CLAY TAMPA, FL 33604 Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:51:31 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)

I'd like to express my support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ROBERT RASHKOW MIAMI, FL 33131 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 12:01:46 AM |
| | | Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | | |
| To whom it may concern... | | |
| Please decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. | | |
| A FEW REASONS: | | |
| *Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. | | |
| *You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. | | |
| *Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has *been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. | | |
| Thank you, for your assistance!!! | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARYANT CARRENO MRS. HOMESTEAD, FL 33031 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:26:34 AM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | |
| I think Gambling with any kind of animals is a CRIME (Cruelty). | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | LYN WILLIAMS WINTER HAVEN, FL 33884 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:45:44 AM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | |
| My biggest concern is for the greyhounds. Please put an end to the greyhound racing & horse racing. It is not healthy for them. Animals were not put here to entertain us. They are not ours to abuse, hurt, or kill. they experience the same pain & emotions as people do. | | |

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DR. LISA TICHENOR SARASOTA, FL 34236 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:49:00 AM |
| | | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |
| Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | | |
| please stop expansion of any gaming using live animals! | | |

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA PONCE
PETA, HUMANE SOCIETY, ETC
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32080
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 3:45:48 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

We oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA PONCE
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FL 32080
Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 11:25:51 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

We need your help to eradicate dog racing in Florida, home to 12 dog racing tracks (the most in the U.S.!). State law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable. Once this mandate is removed through a process called "decoupling," dog racing will be reduced substantially and thousands of dogs will be freed from constant confinement and suffering.

The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. Recognizing that the dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely, many states have already banned this exploitive form of entertainment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still operates.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. We oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.

PLEASE Take Action Now!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: COLONEL MEYER
NORTH PORT, FL 34286
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 3:48:32 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Stop greyhound racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PHOEBE TAM
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33024
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 4:29:20 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Animals are not for our entertainment, we should not gamble with greyhounds lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELLE COHEN
SELF
CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33067
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 5:16:52 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VICTORIA CARTER
PETA
JACKSONVILLE , FL 32222
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 5:23:12 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)

Please put an end to gambling of greyhound dog racing . The devastation and extreme unethical treatment of these animals is cruel and should be UNLAWFUL .

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELENA SICURELLA
LONGWOOD, FL 32779
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 6:30:58 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

The only Expansion of Gaming I am against is the abuse of greyhound's. These are very loving pets. They are to be enjoyed in your home. They love unconditionally. With racing there are facts and proof they are abused, cigarette burns on their bodies, they are stuffed in cages where they cannot move. Please these beautiful kind hearted dogs do not deserve this. Put a slot machine in place of them. This way no one gets hurt and these dogs can live a peaceful loving life. Remember, if someone goes to a race track to bet on greyhounds they are involved in gambling, so weigh it out, greyhounds or slot machines. SLOT MACHINES WIN. Please consider.

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GORDON BRIDGER
VENICE, FL 34292
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 6:31:39 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

AGAINST ANY FORM OF ANIMAL GAMING...INCLUDING GREYHOUND RACING...HORSE RACING...DOG FIGHTING....ROOSTER FIGHTING.
REGULAR GAMBLING AT CASINO IS FINE.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VALERIE MERCURIO
NAPLES, FL 34108
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 6:48:55 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop the greyhound racing!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARAH SPRAGUE SARASOTA, FL 34234 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 7:04:45 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Greyhound cruelty

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CINDY WASDEN PALM BAY, FL 32907 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 7:49:26 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Save and protect our Grey Hounds!!! Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN SEVERINO AVON PARK, FL 33825 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:04:56 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am adamantly opposed to greyhound racing because of the cruelties inflicted on the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA LAWSON WEEKI WACHEE, FL 34607 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:05:17 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is cruel to the animals and we all know what happens to these beautiful creatures after they cannot race and make the greedy animal abusers any money.

Please stop this cruel treatment of Greyhound dogs and all animals including horse racing. 18

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBI BUTLER ASPCA COCOA, FL 32927 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:21:56 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please vote to decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling so that the number of dog racing facilities can dwindle to nothing. This is a cruel sport that forces the dogs to run after a fake rabbit and risk injury for the entertainment of the people that are betting on them. This is not much better than Dog fighting only difference is the extent of injury. Please make it so the dog racing and other gambling are separate things. Thank you from a concerned animal lover.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGARITA FERNANDEZ PALMETTO BAY, FL 33157 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:25:03 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please accelerate the protection for greyhounds on the racing circuit and after they are retired. The treatment of these beautiful and gentle animals in this country is reprehensible.

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES EMERTON PERSONAL WINTER HAVEN, FL 33884
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:31:25 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Decoupling of Greyhound racing from gambling. I'm almost 51 years old and have always had a dog. In 2001, we adopted our first Greyhound, "Honey". She was one of the lucky ones...she was retired from racing as she no longer could make money after breaking her hock during a race. You see, once a dog becomes non-profitable, or in other words, a liability, they are discarded. Approximately, 50% of the discarded dogs make it to an adoption/foster facility; the other 50% are euthanized. And these dogs don't have to be injured to be discarded...they get rid of them because they don't make money any more. "Honey" lived her golden years with us until she was 14. She had cancer and underwent surgery twice. The difference between her and other breeds I've had is she was truly a broken spirit when we first brought her home. It broke our hearts. The training regimen and deplorable living conditions change these dogs. They never have the opportunity to live a dog's life; to be a puppy and play, chase a ball, be cuddled and loved by all, and the list goes on. When "Honey" first came into our home, she didn't know how to walk on tile, or go up and down steps. She ran into sliding glass doors and patio screens...all very innocent actions but something a 4 yr old dog should be comfortable with. She just never had the opportunity to experience life outside of a small crate; a cell she occupied for over 20 hrs per day. She never had the "luxury" of running on grass, sunning herself in the yard, digging a hole, etc. She was only let out in a dirt yard to eat, defacate, and play (if you call it that) with the other inmates; I mean Greyhounds. Slowly, her life evolved and she became one of the sweetest, most gentle, most grateful pets we've ever welcomed into our home. Because of this wonderful relationship with "Honey" and the heartbreak/guilt of knowing how these beautiful animals are treated on the racing circuit, we adopted our second Greyhound "Lady" who is a distant cousin of "Honey" :). I guess another to say it is, if a US Citizen becomes "non-profitable"; whether they are injured and can't work or they just get old and can't contribute to society anymore, should they be discarded? Should 50% of our non-productive society be euthanized for that reason? Of course not, so why should these dogs? Why is Florida one of the remaining states that still allows the abuse, and it is abuse, of these animals? Let's decouple gambling from dog racing so these animals can live a "normal" life. Thank you for your consideration. Jim Emerton

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE GIBSON KISSIMMEE, FL 34747
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:45:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. Having this law unnecessarily makes dogs suffer and live a life they aren't meant to live. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. They spend more than half their life confined when they don't have to be. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry and should stop. There is so need for animals to go on suffering because of unnecessary and cruel laws.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOAN GRAY SELF OVIEDO , FL 32765
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:53:55 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please end greyhound racing. It is cruel and abusive. Don't let this abomination continue. Allow people to gamble without coupling it with animal abuse masquerading as a spoty

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA ROBERTS
PETA
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33409
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:57:33 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

DOG RACING HAS TO STOP!!!!

THESE GREYHOUNDS ARE STUFFED INTO CRAMPED DIRTY CAGES...BEFORE AND AFTER THEY RACE. HARD STEEL MASKS ARE PUT OVER THEIR FACES WHEN THEY RACE..INHIBITING THE OXYGEN TO THEIR HEARTS..THIS IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOR THE GREYHOUNDS. THEY ARE STARVED, DEPRIVED OF FOOD, WATER AND A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO LAY DOWN AND SLEEP. AFTER THEIR "RACING CAREERS" THEY ARE NEGLECTED, TORTURED AND ABUSED. THESE GREYHOUNDS HAVE FEELINGS, FAMILIES AND HEARTBEATS JUST LIKE YOU!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KELLI ROBBINS
PINELLAS PARK, FL 33781
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:01:44 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I recently had to go to a card room establishment to pick up my husband. While he was using the restroom I saw a dog race. What a horrible thing to make these dogs race and then confine them to a cage. No human interaction other than racing. Dogs have should, they want love. They should not have to earn it by winning, it should be given freely, just as they give it to the humans. WE don't have to go racing around a track to get them to love us. COME ON, END THIS SUFFERING AND SET THEM FREE!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GRACIELA DOWNEY
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:20:28 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please eliminate the law that requires that gambling facilities also have grey hound tracks.
We must end the abuse of this gentle defenseless dogs

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA BRIDGER
VENICE, FL 33292
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:25:06 AM
Position: For Information Only

Gambling is fine as long as it does not involve defenseless animals.
STOP gambling with horses, dogs and any other form of animal cruelty ...like cock fighting....dog fighting!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHANIE MARCOS
MIAMI, FL 33147
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:41:05 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOAN BREHM GREY PETS OF AMERICA ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:51:07 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please stop Greyhound dog racing. These beautiful animals need to have a chance to have a good & loving home just as other dogs do. It is impossible to care for & find homes for all of the dogs when they are finished racing. If the racing is stopped there will be much less breeding & therefore many less of these magnificent animals kept in cages until or if a good home can be found. Please look & learn for yourself before before you allow this to continue.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINA GRENGA DELRAY BEACH, FL 33445
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:51:50 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERRI HAINES BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:53:44 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

There are many more ways that people can have fun gambling other than watching tortured dogs chase a fake rabbit around a track. Please ban this practice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAT DOUGAN TRINITY, FL 34655
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 9:59:48 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop horrible treatment of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NICK GALANTE MR. TAVARES, FL 32778
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 10:09:37 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

End Greyhound racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARYN SHUBERT NAPLES, FL 34104
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 10:12:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please stop Greyhound racing in Florida. It is awful, and so cruel to these beautiful dogs. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARGE BRENNAN MARGATE, FL 33063
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:02:01 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop dog racing it is pure cruelty for the dogs

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NORMA KHALIL LONGWOOD, FL 32779
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:09:33 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am in support of decoupling. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. Also, I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. Please get these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAUREN BECKER NAPLES, FL 34119
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:14:46 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop all forms of Greyhound racing..it is animal abuse!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN VERTE FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:21:22 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs. Let's bring humanity back into the humane race. These are living, feeling creatures. Empathy. Pain is a shared feeling among all the living. No one should suffer, especially in the United States. Please vote to protect these animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERRI VANDERWAGEN ASPCA PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33418
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:27:46 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling for the following reasons:
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RENEE THOMAS LOXAHATCHEE, FL 33470
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:27:57 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Greyhound racing needs to stop. This industry inflicts cruelty on the animals, despite the breeders claims to the contrary. The dogs live in tiny cages, receive inadequate food, are killed if they do not perform. Someday history will look back on this cruel sport and judge us as a cruel people.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MIRIAM SAIWAY MIAMI, FL 33009
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:53:32 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I'S ASKING TO PASS THE LAW OF GRAYHOUND INJURY REPORTING BILL TO LET FLORIDIANS RESIDENTS TO KNOW THE INJURIES OF THESE INOCENT DOGS AS THE RESULT OF THIS CRUEL GAME THAT SHOULD BE PROHIBITED.
THANKS.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT MATTHEWS KEY LARGO, FL 33037
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 11:54:17 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I oppose the use of animals in racing for wagers.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHELSEA KREBS FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 12:08:18 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
As an animal lover, please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM PHIPPS SAINT PETERSBURG, FL 33707
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 12:57:34 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
I urge you to fix the FL Gaming laws so as to de-couple gambling business from being required to offer greyhound racing. Greyhound racing is not profitable but, moreover, amounts to a factory for cruel and inhumane treatment of the greyhounds, especially retired dogs. We need to end, not encourage or require, inhumane practices in Florida. I also urge you to strengthen rules that would reduce and discover the drugging of horses, which is becoming widespread and better known in the world of horseracing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBRA L GOMES SAFETY HARBOR, FL 34695
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:13:25 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please Stop Grey Hound Racing and abuse of Grey Hounds Used In Racking In Florida!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOY ALLEN
NA
APOPKA, FL 32712

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:22:36 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Hello. I do not think that greyhound racing should be linked to other gambling. I am for decoupling the two types of gambling. Let each one rise or fall on its own merit. Especially when racing live animals, no coupling should occur. That just invites animal abuses. Decouple them, please, and let gamblers support what they choose.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANK KISHEL
PALM BAY, FL 32907

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:31:21 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Ending dog racing is long overdue!
Please do everything you can to end this sport / activity.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GARY MISLICK
OAKLAND PARK, FL 33309

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:35:56 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELISSA MENDELSON
MS.
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33063

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 1:42:41 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURA BURKS BRADENTON, FL 34210

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 2:01:08 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Position: Neither For nor Against

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL KLINE MERRITT ISLAND, FL 32953

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 2:19:24 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I wish to express my support for decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIANE STORCH SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FL 33160

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 2:39:42 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

CRUELTY AGAINST THE DOGS,THIS IS CRIME.WE NEEDED STOP THAT.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSE SIMON ANIMAL BEHAVIOR COLLEGE PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32407

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 2:39:54 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Greyhound's have been tortured for public enjoyment far to long. Today, society as a whole are entertained by all sorts of sadistic events all for the love of money.Dogs are said to be man's best friend and we are responsible to take care of them. This command is not a "golden rule" but a command by God. Please banish greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL HONIG CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33071

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 3:33:42 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Stop racing greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY JOHNSON EDGEWATER, FL 32132

Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 3:50:59 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | KIM MOSELEY SELF CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 4:00:30 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Please abolish dog racing in the State of Florida. They are kept in cruel conditions and abused. Stop requiring gambling establishments to have a dog track. Thank you very much

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|---|--|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JUDY ALBURY MIAMI, FL 33155 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 4:43:31 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts) | Position: For Information Only |

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | DANIEL VARELA ASPCA RIVERVIEW, FL 33579 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 4:59:09 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Stop greyhound racing.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARY ANN WARD ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 5:19:15 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

GREYHOUND RACING

Stop greyhound racing - it's inhumane treatment for the dogs and only fills the pockets of breeding - it has no socially redeeming qualities in the least - the history of the breed was never meant to be abused by putting greyhounds on race tracks - I abhor all greyhound racing.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SONYA RAPEE AVENTURA, FL 33180 | Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 5:50:09 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

I am requesting that there be no requirement that race tracks have live dogs racing in order to have other forms of gambling (decoupling)

I am also requesting that all injuries to greyhounds owned by race tracks be put out for public knowledge.

Thank you
Sonya Rapee, Psy.D.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET JONES GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER
 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 6:04:18 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please! Stop racing Greyhounds in Florida. My greyhound, Abby, came from the Melbourne track after racing until she was over 4 years old. She has scars on both shoulders from collisions, but she was fortunate enough never to have broken a leg as so many do. She was afraid to leave the crate in which she had spent most of the previous 3 years. Now she has her own fuzzy toys and blankets. She likes to sleep with her nose in a toy, blanket, pillow or any soft place. Racing greyhounds do not get toys or "blankies." They don't get to sleep on their backs in a soft bed or have tummy rubs. They do get hormone injections and substandard food. Many adopted greyhounds have to have teeth pulled because of the poor nutrition provided to racers. Many also have serious parasite diseases because of the condition of racing kennels. In spite of the way we treat them, they love to be with people. Greyhounds are one of the 3 breeds LEAST likely to bite. (Labrador Retrievers and Basset Hounds are the other two.) Please help the greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANIS ROGERS FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312
 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 6:09:04 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Stop greyhound racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CARLOS RAMIREZ NAPLES, FL 34120
 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 7:29:36 PM
 Position: For Information Only
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

STOPEDDDD IS CRUEL AND STUPIDD

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERESA TURNER HAWTHORNE, FL 32640
 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 7:30:06 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. It seems inhumane to me and I can't imagine why it is joined to other legal gaming categories by law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: OLGA LOBÉ MYSELF AS A CITIZEN MIAMI, FL 33165
 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 7:56:06 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

This is a comment and a request to the Senate Committee on Gaming asking them to eliminate the law requiring that gambling facilities also have greyhound tracks. Doing so will help move us toward the day when these great dogs are no longer abused in racing operations.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUSTINE KING BOCA RATON, FL 33433
 Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:15:37 PM
 Position: Neither For nor Against
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please son't force dogs to race to allow for slot machines. It is inhumane to the dogs and doesn't help the tracks either. It is truly unbelievable that we would allow dogs to spend 20 hours a day confined to small cages. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENN D. LEHIGH ACRES, FL 33971
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 8:40:38 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VINNY MULLINS CLEARWATER, FL 33761
Comments submitted: 11/21/2013 10:31:53 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. We know the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.

I support decoupling for the following reasons:

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VANESSA CARBIA GAINESVILLE, FL 32608
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:25:42 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

This is to STRONGLY urge you to pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANNE GLEATON LAKE PANASOFFKEE, FL 33538
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:37:27 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

not sure if this is directed properly. It is time to free the Greyhounds from racing. help change the current laws to achieve this. sincerely, Dianne Gleaton

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN TURNBULL PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:53:58 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELAINE BARRETTE MRS. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 6:11:11 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I am so sick of this country and it's use and abuse of innocent animals in the name of profit!!!! We should be setting a better example for the world.

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs. Now is the time to help greyhounds in this cruel industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANNA THOMPSON VERO BEACH, FL 32960 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 7:15:58 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling) Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Helping greyhounds

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANGELA MARTE MIAMI, FL 33156 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 7:22:28 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

Please don't tie dog racing to any forms of gambling in the state of Florida. As a animal lover, a concern citizen and a register voter, I beg you to stop dog racing in our state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VALERIE HARRISON VERO BEACH, FL 32966 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 7:27:34 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) Position: Neither For nor Against

I want to protect the greyhounds!

The humane treatment of racing greyhounds is important to me, and I support greyhound racing decoupling and racing greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY ELLEN KOSER VERO BEACH, FL 32962 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 7:35:44 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I support the humane treatment of racing greyhounds and support greyhound racing decoupling and racing greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA WATERBURY VERO BEACH, FL 32963 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:03:01 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
Against racing greyhounds. for reporting injuries

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARAH BARNHILL PALM HARBOR, FL 34683 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:05:16 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)
I believe making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARA KASZOVITZ MIAMI BEACH, FL 33139 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:05:36 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I am strongly against the expansion of gaming for the following reasons:
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I strongly oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOYCE SILVERMAN HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERO BEACH AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTY Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:08:14 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
My comment is not to do with gambling, but the proper treatment of the dogs...more rules and regulations regarding how often they run and reporting to the state on their health and injuries.....this is first and foremost in my mind. No cruelty to these dogs, please.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JASON GIBSON TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:13:21 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please allow the decoupling of greyhound racing. Greyhound racing is a cruel "sport" that does incredible harm to these defenseless animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CELIA MILANO VERO BEACH, FL 32966 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:15:21 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

I support greyhound racing decoupling and racing greyhound injury reporting.
Greyhound Decoupling: Ask lawmakers to pass greyhound "decoupling." This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate that requires track owners to hold a certain number of races each day.
Injury Reporting: We also want lawmakers to require that racing greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida and Alabama are the only states that do not report this information. Mandatory injury reporting will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHERINE TUCKER N/A SEBASTIAN, FL 32976 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:22:36 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to you about the pending legislation concerning greyhound racing in the State of Florida. I am asking you to support decoupling and the public reporting of injuries to race dogs. These animals cannot speak for themselves. They already face a very short life spent primarily in a cage, being taken out only for exercise and to race. Even zoos are required to have larger living spaces for their animals than the kennel size mandated for these dogs. Unless a rescue organization or concerned citizen intervenes, at the end of their racing career they are euthanized. Having a mandatory number of races scheduled each day means that, even if they are not fit to do so, they are required to run multiple races, adding to potential for injury. By not being required to report injuries, owners can run animals that are injured and should be kept off the track. Supporting these changes will not prevent track/greyhound owners and managers from earning a living, it will simply better ensure the wellbeing of the animals that are the true breadwinners in this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NICOLE UNRINE VERO BEACH HUMANE SOCIETY FORT PIERCE, FL 34951 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:29:36 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

It is deplorable that track owners are required to have a minimum number of races per day. Injured animals are forced to run to meet the number. There also needs to be a law as in every other racing dog state, that injuries to Greyhounds be reported immediately. This breed is highly social and intelligent. They deserve humane treatment at all times. Please, do the right thing by these loyal dogs. Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY-ANN FAVIER
NONE
SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:35:06 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please pass the decoupling and mandate the report of injuries to the greyhounds to the public. Having owned 2 of these wonderful dogs I would really like to see some extra needed protection to insured their health and well being of these animals. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SALLY WILSON
INDIVIDUAL
VERO BEACH, FL 32962
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:46:22 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The exploitation of animals for human entertainment and profit is morally wrong, but any legislation that can help protect the animals that are exploited is good.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TIM SWIFT
HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERO BEACH & INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:46:36 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please pass two measures that will help protect racing greyhounds in Florida, greyhound decoupling and injury reporting. Both of these measured are needed to insure that pari-mutuel greyhound racing becomes less about the money and more about the animals that are routinely exploited. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELIZABETH MOULTON
VERO BEACH, FL 32963
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:49:52 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please pass greyhound "decoupling." This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate that requires track owners to hold a certain number of races each day. Additionally, require that racing greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida and Alabama are the only states that do not report this information.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY SCHENKEL
VERO BEACH, FL 32966
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:02:01 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please help save the lives of these magnificent greyhounds by passing legislation to support greyhound racing decoupling and racing greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDRA THOMAS
VERO BEACH, FL 32962
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:12:07 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Greyhounds should be afforded the same treatment as any professional athlete in that uncoupling should not be allowed and injuries should be treated immediately and the public alerted. Once these animals have finished their careers, it is hoped that they actually get to have a life through GPA - to me, that is the very least we can do for these magnificent and very bright animals, forced into racing for the pleasure of almighty man. It makes me sick!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA WORSHSM VERO BEACH, FL 32968
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:12:34 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop greyhound racing and the abuse and torture that comes with it. The dogs have no choice. It's a dying industry--end it now.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CORNELIA PEREZ VERO BEACH, FL 32960
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:31:10 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Protect greyhounds

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LORRAINE GARTNER SELF VERO BEACH, FL 32963
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:36:05 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please support the Greyhound decoupling legislation. We do not need to continue the suffering for this poor animals as a convenience to the gambling public.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LOIS CASEY VERO BEACH, FL 32967
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:38:55 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Let's insure more humane treatment for greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JEAN HOPKINS VERO BEACH, FL 32966
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:45:06 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I care about the humane treatment of racing greyhounds. Please require that their injuries be reported, and that they are allowed to rest between races. Anything else you can do for these gentle animals, will be much appreciated by me.
Jean Hopkins

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIE BURNS HSVB MELBOURNE BEACH, FL 32951
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 10:05:52 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Animals of ANY species should never have to work in order to entertain people.
Greyhound racing is cruel and inhuman. Dogs are companion animals and should not be used for any other reason.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY NORTON PORT ST LUCIE, FL 34983
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 10:37:54 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop the abuse of the greyhounds for profit!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: THERESA ALFONSO ASPCA NAPLES, FL 34103
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 11:24:55 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please help the helpless abuse of greyhounds and stop gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBRA CARTER TEMPLE TERRACE, FL 33617
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 11:47:59 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

My concerns for Greyhound racing is simple, humans forced these animals to perform so THEY can make money. If the dogs don't win, they die. How convenient for them. Why must so many animals suffer for greed. You have dogs you love, these are dogs forced to perform. How sad, and shame on you if you continue to let this happen.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAULETTE HERRON ORLANDO, FL 32836
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 11:48:26 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks.
- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JACQUELINE POLLACK LAKE MARY, FL 32746
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 12:06:56 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I am contacting you to encourage you to pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDY KOEHLER VERO BEACH, FL 32963
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 12:14:12 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Not only is gaming a community issue, but certainly dog racing is a community issue. It is ridiculous to insist that dog racing run every day.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WHITNEY WATTERS PETA ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32084
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 12:55:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order to protect dogs who unfortunately must suffer in order for humans to gamble. Despicable, but if it must continue we MUST be humane!! Thank you!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WHITNEY WATTERS ASPCA ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32084
 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:02:44 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
 Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill. I abhor using animals for human entertainment and gambling but at least let's treat the dogs humanely!!!!!!!!!!!! Thznk you!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHEILA GEHLBACH ORLANDO, FL 32810
 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 12:56:59 PM
 Position: For Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
 I would like to see dog racing made illegal.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: YELINA DIAZ GREY2K MIAMI, FL 33175
 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:31:31 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)
 STOP GREYHOUNG RACING NOW

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBRINA WOODS LARGE COMMUNITY OF WOMEN 50-65 YEARS. VERO BEACH, FL 32967
 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:33:45 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
 Greyhound Decoupling: I WANT lawmakers to pass greyhound "decoupling."
 Injury Reporting: I want lawmakers to require that racing greyhound injuries be reported to the public.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: COVI LOPEZ SELECT... NAPLES, FL 34117
 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:34:00 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
 Florida: help free thousands of greyhounds from Misery at the Dog Track.Thanks;

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHERYL WATTERS PETA PALM COAST, FL 32164
 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:58:32 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
 Please pass the greyhound injury reporting act and the decoupling bill to help protect these poor dogs who are used for human entertainment and gambling. It would be much better if this did not even exist!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHERYL WATTERS ASPCA PALM COAST, FL 32164
 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 2:00:42 PM
 Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
 Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
 Please pass the greyhound injury reporting bill and the decoupling bill in order the help these dogs. Even better close all dog tracks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANE GARR VERO BEACH, FL 32963
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 2:24:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please enact laws that protect the grey hounds from mistreatment, Injuries must be reported and the dogs should not be overworked. They should be treated well, fed well and kept in a safe and comfortable environment. I am really against racing dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RONALD GARDNER VERO BEACH, FL 32966
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 2:28:03 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of racing greyhounds is very important to me. Please pass Greyhound Decoupling, and require that racing injuries are reported to the public. Thank you for your time.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RONALD RUHL VERO BEACH, FL 32966
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 2:34:03 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The humane treatment of racing greyhounds is extremely important. I support greyhound racing decoupling and racing greyhound injury reporting. Please so the right thing for these beautiful animals who don't deserve the terrible treatment they get here in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA NELSON HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERO BEACH AND IRC VERO BEACH, FL 32968
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 2:44:34 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Humane treatment of racing greyhounds is important to me. I support greyhound racing decoupling and racing greyhouse injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETTY GREER VERO BEACH, FL 32966
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 2:46:32 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support greyhound racing decoupling and racing greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROLINE FREDERIKSEN MRS. VERO BEACH, FL 32966
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 3:28:46 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please pass greyhound decoupling and injury reporting

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAURA STAPLES SARASOTA, FL 34232
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 3:35:56 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please "decouple" greyhound dog racing from other forms of gambling. Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TIM SIMOS FORT PIERCE, FL 34949 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 4:39:39 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
PLEASE VOTE ON LEGISLATION THAT HELPS PROTECT THE DOGS IN DOG RACING EVENTS. THAT INCLUDES MAKING INJURY STATISTICS PUBLIC INFORMATION.
THANK YOU.
TIM SIMOS

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RALPH CAPALDO VERO BEACH, FL 32962 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 4:42:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please pass gray hound decoupling and require injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JO ANNE MILLER VERO BEACH, FL 32960 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 6:20:22 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
Please vote for humane treatment of greyhounds. I think racing them is cruel, but if that cannot be stopped at least report injuries and pass "decoupling."

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRISTIN MANGO ***** WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33409 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 6:34:22 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I have a retired greyhound and she should never have had to race. She is a lovable and sweet dog who still is nervous from her racing days. She has scars on her body from ticks. We luckily got her when she was of no use to the races because she got hurt. It's horrible to make these dogs live like this all for the amusements of humans- yuck! Please help stop it!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PRISCILLA KELLY HUMANE SOC. OF VERO BEACH & INDIAN RIVER COUNTY Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:01:02 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
support Greyhound Racing Decoupling and Racing Greyhound Injury Reporting

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN MARNER VERO BEACH, FL 32966 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:25:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
I am for the proposed changes to Greyhound racing. All injuries should be reported and the tracks should not have to have a set number of races each day. This is too hard on the animals. Actually , I am against gambling in all it's forms, but especially when animals are the victims.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TJ BERNARD WINTER HAVEN, FL 33884 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:29:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Animals shouldn't have to suffer to support someone's pleasure.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLES CAMPBELL TAMPA, FL 33602 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 8:44:19 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I'm against dog racing in the state of Florida. The dogs suffer greatly and that is why the states that allow dog racing has been cut from 15 to 7 in the past 13 years. This is a cruel industry that has no place in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUNE WITKOWSKI SEBASTIAN, FL 32958 Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 9:29:33 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please pass greyhound "decoupling." This humane proposal will remove the state dog racing mandate that requires track owners to hold a certain number of races each day.
I want lawmakers to require that racing greyhound injuries be reported to the public. Florida and Alabama are the only states that do not report this information. Mandatory injury reporting will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LISA ROSE VERO BEACH, FL 32963 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 7:05:37 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please pass decoupling and require reporting of injuries of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARAH SHERRILL VERO BEACH, FL 32962 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 7:42:22 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
Please protect greyhounds and report their injuries!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIMBERLEY JURAWAN JUPITER, FL 33458 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 8:38:50 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)
What century do we live in that some folk still indulge in this antiquated game based on cruelty to dogs? If we have evolved as humans and understand the correlation between cruelty to animals and the degradation of our humanity and the increase in violent crime linked to a lack of empathy, then we will STOP this cruel practice. STOP in the name of protecting our society from spiraling even further downward into egotism, self-centeredness and asocial behavior. Not just for the sake of the greyhounds but also for the sake of human conduct, please not only PREVENT this industry's expansion and let us work together toward ELIMINATING it altogether!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY GILMARTIN VERO BEACH, FL 32966 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 9:20:35 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)
Please protect greyhounds as is done in most every other state other than Alabama. Please pass legislation pertaining to this.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERRI DOUPE ALTAMONTE, FL 32701 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 9:47:49 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
THIS IS ABOUT THE GREY HOUNDS AND HOW THEY ARE TREATED. PLEASE STOP THE RACING AND ABUSE OF THESE DOGS.....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: APRIL BUCHHEIT HOLLYWOOD, FL 33020 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 10:21:39 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
I am against Greyhound racing I have volunteered for greyhound rescue groups and am shocked at the conditions these dogs have to live through.
And then if they are lucky enough to live they have life long injuries that cripple them and they live in pain until they die . They are such gentle and very loving animals.
PLEASE STOP THIS INHUMANE SPORT JUST FOR GREED thank you April

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ERIN CANNON OAKLAND PARK, FL 33334 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 10:29:46 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
I am against Greyhound or any form of dog racing whatsoever.
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.
Please decouple greyhound racing and slot machines and push legislation to outlaw greyhound racing altogether.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHIRLEY BERCKMANS MIAMI, FL 33133 Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 10:33:10 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)
I oppose making dogs race in order to allow slot machines. It makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. Please oppose this legislation.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN MARCHISELLI CLEARWATER, FL 33756
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 11:04:51 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dog racing and the conditions it subjects the animals to should be outlawed now!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TANYA BAKER TAMPA, FL 33610
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 11:11:17 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA DEMPSTER SAINT PETERSBURG, FL 33702
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 12:04:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please halt the cruel practice of greyhound racing. I do not feel that either greyhound, horse, or any other animal racing of use for gambling is ethical or humane.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: YEMEL BRYAN PBG , FL 33418
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 12:19:15 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Animals should not be abused under any circumstance. Please stop animal cruelty in gambling!! There are personal interest by representatives like Rooney who owns the greyhound gambling business in west palm beach, Florida. This should be not allowed, it's a shame he's using the gambling industry and abusing animals for his own benefit!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRISTEN STEINER JACKSONVILLE, FL 32246
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 1:07:10 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. It is absurd that State Law requires businesses with gambling licenses to operate Greyhound tracks if they want to offer any manner of gambling. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling makes no sense and inflicts unnecessary cruelty on Greyhounds, who spend their racing lives confined, suffer terrible injuries, and often are killed once they are no longer profitable. Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. The dogs should not be forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food just for gambling's sake.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry. So please, do what you can to eliminate the cruel dog tracks and this abomination of a law.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | SUZANNE CARPENTER HUMANE SOCIETY VERO BEACH, FL 32962 | Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 1:44:10 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

Two issues concerning Greyhound racing---1. Race tracks should NOT be required to run dog races multiply times each day. I believe this is called doubling ? The welfare of the dogs must be considered. These animals should not be abused for man's entertainment any more than the ones used for dog fighting. 2. Florida law does not require that injured dogs be reported. How can unscrupulous racers be monitored if they do not even report when a racing dog is injured? Protect our racing dogs. I do not think dog racing should be prohibited--- but regulate and protect these animal bred for racing.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JENNIFER ERTEL-RODRIGUEZ MIAMI, FL 33193 | Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 2:17:46 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Other) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

Please do not require dog racing for gaming establishments

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ELIZABETH WOOD GULFPORT, FL 33707 | Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 2:20:01 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

I am writing to request decoupling dog racing from other forms of gamblin.
Tracks should not be forced to race the dogs when other forms of gambling are more profitable. It is cruel to confine greyhounds to being caged 20 hours/day. Greyhound racing is now a dying industry that is banned in other states. It is time for Florida to also ban greyhound racing.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | YVETTE RODRIGUEZ MIAMI, FL 33184 | Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 7:08:13 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

As a Florida resident and a member of The League of Humane Voters-Florida Chapter, I would like to see the elimination of the greyhound racing industry because of the inhumane treatment that greyhounds endure. Greyhounds are mass produced for the sole purpose of gambling entertainment. Greyhounds live a very short and inhumane life. When they are no longer profitable, the majority of greyhounds are euthanized. Please consider ending greyhound racing in the state of Florida. Thank you.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | OLGA LEVIS MIAMI, FL 33180 | Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 7:56:57 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Position: Against Expansion of Gaming |

Let dogs live their life!!
Dont use them for gambling

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE STEPNER VERO BEACH, FL 32968
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 8:45:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Dog racing should be ended

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOYCE LOFREDO PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 8:48:04 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Re: GREYHOUND RACING: By allowing dog tracts to operate without greyhound racing, you will be sparing the pain, suffering, and lives engendered by this cruel and vicious industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOYCE LOFREDO PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 9:03:47 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

DECOUPLE DOG RACING FROM CARD ROOMS.
BY ALLOWING DOG TRACTS TO OPERATE WITHOUT GREYHOUND RACING, YOU WIL BE SPARING THE PAIN, SUFFERING, AND LIVES LOST ENGENDERED BY THIS CRUEL AND VICIOUS INDUSTRY.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOSEPH LOFREDO PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 7:26:08 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The vast majority of our state want to eliminate the dog tract requirement. Dog racing is cruel and inhumane.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELANIE BREWER ROYAL PALM BEACH, FL 33411
Comments submitted: 11/23/2013 9:12:00 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop dog racing in Florida. The evidence of the cruelty these dogs have to endure is overwhelming and is factual. Please stand up for the dogs and ban all dog racing.
Thank you

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA EMMEL PLANT CITY, FL 33566
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 6:27:39 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

i thought this was about greyhound racing-it is cruel !!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARAH OSWALD MELBOURNE, FL 32935
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 8:22:15 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: COURTNEY CANFIELD HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE U.S. NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL 32168
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 12:39:50 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please help us make positive changes to benefit the animals that so many of us love! Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines is unnecessary. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling does not benefit the tracks!

Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer. I oppose dogs being forced to spend a majority of their day confined to small cages. We appreciate your support in making these changes to help the dogs that can't help themselves.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATTY KUHNER MRS. SEBASTIAN, FL 32958
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 1:27:33 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop forcing beautiful greyhounds to be abused so people can gamble. Stop animal abuse, torture and greed.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN PITTMAN WINTER PARK, FL 32789
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 2:34:03 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please change the law that couples greyhound racing with businesses keeping or having gambling licenses. Greyhound racing at best is inhumane, and archaic. It's on the decline and having it in Florida reflects poorly on the state. Keeping animals caged for 20 hours at a time, for a few people's enjoyment is indefensible. Show some leadership, uncouple greyhound racing from gambling businesses. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TACE HEDRICK GAINESVILLE, FL 32609
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 3:22:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am opposed to dog racing in particular since many studies and media stories have shown that greyhounds are habitually abused and, when their "usefulness" on the track has ended, are then killed. Greyhound rescue groups around the country know intimately the ways in which greyhounds are abused for a rapidly dying sport which brings virtually no benefit to the State of Florida or to its citizens.

To continue a "sport" which combines the ill effects of gambling itself with the continued abuse of animals is counter to the ways in which the State of Florida should be thinking about how it moves forward, and how it makes its revenues. Please make every effort to close the institution of betting on greyhounds down for good. Tourism, which is this state's main economic engine, will not miss it--nor will the vast majority of Floridians, or the greyhounds used, and used up, in its practice.

Thank you,
Tace Hedrick

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RANDY MAHURIN SPRING HILL, FL 34608
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 5:05:13 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

End the cruel use of greyhounds in racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN CIELUKOWSKI MR. COCOA BEACH, FL 32931
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 5:41:07 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

please stop the expansion of gaming and greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA WHEELER LAKELAND, FL 33812
Comments submitted: 11/24/2013 10:11:50 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I am writing to support the process of decoupling, removing the mandate for any businesses offering gambling to also operate Greyhound tracks. Greyhound dogs in racing are mistreated and abused. Gambling with slot machines or other types of games should not require aiding the abuse of thousands of dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHERINE STENSLAND HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERO BEACH AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTY Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 8:18:55 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I recently (for a very short time) dated a man with a gambling addiction and see the havoc it wreaks. Unfortunately, he did not see it that way. He is using generous SSI disability payments to support his habit and has accumulated thousands of dollars in credit card debt 'trying to make it big' and 'enjoy myself, it's like a vacation going to the casino'.

So, in light of this recent experience, I need to put my two cents in to the upcoming Dog track legislation. I am in favor of protecting the dogs as much as possible. In my humble opinion, dog racing not only harms those addicted to gambling and their loved ones, but also the dogs as well. I see no 'winning' that occurs in a race. I therefore support the Greyhound decoupling and Injury reporting legislation.

(It also makes me cringe to know my tax dollars that support people on (inflated claim to)disability are used in such a way. There was a time that this person truly needed disability support. Now he sees it as a means to his gambling habit. But I guess that is another topic.)

Please consider addressing legislation that protects the dogs.

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOYCE HAGAN-SVILOKOS OCALA, FL 34476 Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 10:15:28 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

I support the Greyhound Decoupling Bill plus the Greyhound Injury Reporting Bill .Why should we, the taxpayers subsidize greyhound racing when people only want to use the gaming tables plus this is inhumane treatment of animals for the pleasure of whom????

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHANIE TEPLANSKY CELEBRATION, FL 34747 Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 10:36:24 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Recent rapid changes have transformed gaming industries, but laws and tax policies have not kept pace. Layers of exceptions and patches are not working well to promote the state's overall economic and social welfare.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

The situation demands a comprehensive critical assessment. Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JENNIFER WOOD ORANGE PARK, FL 32073 Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 10:49:23 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BARBARA SPRANO GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA, S. FL WEST LAKE WORTH , FL 33467 Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 11:41:14 AM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am a member of the Board of Directors of Greyhound Pets of America, South Florida Chapter. With all due respect, I am asking you to please help these magnificent dogs live as pets and not as pawns of an outdated and cruel sport.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- You oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida.

Barbara R. Sprano

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIM KANE SARASOTA, FL 34239 Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 1:38:59 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please change the law so that gambling establishments do not also have to have greyhound racing in Florida. It is a ridiculous law that only leads to the abuse/neglect of animals. Only an ignorant person would support such a coupling law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LOUISE WRIGHT VERO BEACH, FL 32963 Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 2:56:52 PM Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I am in favor of an expansion of gaming with the understanding that greyhound racing be modified so that injuries are required to be reported and a limited number of races in any one day be held so that we protect the greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GAYNE WILLIAMS MR. WINTER HAVEN, FL 33884
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 3:54:21 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I implore you to put an end to greyhound racing & horse racing. It is hot, cruel, inhumane, causes injuries & death. These animals experience the same pain that people do. They have the same emotions. Please put an end to all of this in the state of Florida

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELAINE FONTAINE LAKE WORTH, FL 33460
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 3:57:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please do not allow greyhound racing in the state of Florida. For many reasons it is animal cruelty. These innocent animals deserve a better life.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARCELLA COOK LAKEWORTH, FL 33461
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 4:05:53 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

PLEASE STOP THIS TORCHOR OF GODS LIFE ; THAT OF A DOG. THEY ARE SO PRECIOUS AND MANS BEST FRIEND!!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: REBECCA MIERKE BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33435
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 6:27:17 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing today in order to plead with the gaming committee to abolish dog racing! I am definitely in favor of decoupling if greyhound racing, for the following reasons!!!
Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.
I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.
Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBOREH DAVIS LAKE WORTH , FL 33467
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 6:29:04 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling of dog racing as a requirement to gambling facilities. Cruelty to animals is NEVER in our best interest, and its a senseless law to begin with.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ISABEL MORALES ORLANDO, FL 32829
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 8:23:11 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Find the illegal gambling and effects on animal cruelty.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JO ELLYN HILL TALLAHASSEE, FL 32309
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 11:34:00 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I support the decoupling of dog racing in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN ROSS VERO BEACH, FL 32962
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 8:17:48 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Against the inhumane use of racing dogs

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRITTANY TOMKOSKY TAMPA, FL 33606
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 11:57:47 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

As a more developed and socially conscious society, lets do more to end cruelty to animals. I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). Also, please require injury reporting for greyhounds. These are common sense proposals that will save greyhound lives.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRISTIN BEGLEY SARASOTA, FL 34238
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 1:28:04 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: GISELLE FETIGAN MRS. OSPREY, FL 34229
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 4:24:13 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

please decouple greyhound racing so it can be abolished or atleast reduced in the state of Florida. I thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LOUISE KARLIN STUDIOVOX BELLEAIR, FL 33756
Comments submitted: 11/26/2013 11:44:43 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Casino gaming is not at the expense of animals. Horse and dog racing are subjected to inhumane treatment, medical experimentation and over training.
Revenues can be generated without using animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELLEN SCHMIDT MYSELF NAPLES, FL 34104
Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 8:52:50 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dear Sir and Madam

As the owner of two rescued Greyhounds who are now ten years old, I am writing to ask you to please support the bill for Greyhound injury reporting and decoupling.. Greyhounds are suffering horrific injuries on the race tracks in Florida as well as across the country. These injuries are not being reported as they should be reported to the State. Also please support the Decoupling Bill. Greyhounds are running around tracks with no human participation. In order for tracks to participate in gambling they must have live dog racing. Greyhounds are kind and gentle animals and they are deserving of a much better life than what they have now. Please support the bill that will enable Greyhound Injury Reporting and Decoupling. Thank you. The Greyhounds thank you too.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JODI LANGLOIS ROYAL PALM BEACH, FL 33411
Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 10:51:44 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please stop letting greyhound racing continue in order to have casinos open!! These poor animals are forced to spend a good portion of their lives running when they really do not want to!!! Far too many of them end up with broken bones, tails getting chopped off, being electrocuted. How is this industry even considered humane?? If you were to look further into this situation you would realize this is the worst form of abuse because we encourage it!!! I have 3 retired racers myself. One of hem broke her leg. She was left in a cage and nothing was done to help her. Now she holds that leg up and favors it all the time. How is that right?? Would you leave a child in foster care with a broken leg and not tend to it and have it fixed??? I believe not, so how is this any different?? ITS NOT!!!! THIS IS STRAIGHT ABUSE!!!! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE...make this stop!!! Let these poor animals live their life normally as a dog instead of forcing them to do something for the enjoyment of other people. Most people think that the dogs are very well taken care of when in fact the owners treat them so horribly bad it makes me sick!!!! Investigate into the care of these animals and see the horror for yourself!!! THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME!!! I HOPE SOMEHTING IS DONE ABOUT ALL THIS!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATTI MARSHALL ROYAL PALM BEACH, FL 33411
Comments submitted: 11/27/2013 11:01:08 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop racing greyhounds! Their treatment is cruel, the dogs are not taken care of in a humane way. They are often injured, electrocuted, or killed when no longer need to race. Please take action to stop this now. Thank you

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

M. PAULINE WOOD
NAPLES, FL 34119

Comments submitted:
11/27/2013 12:07:32 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

For Information Only

Please do all you can to eliminate dog racing in Florida. It is a cruel and inhumane activity that causes a great deal of pain and death to a loving and beautiful species of animal.

Thank you,

M. Pauline Wood

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

AKURA MAKEA-PARDINGTON
SARASOTA, FL 34238

Comments submitted:
11/27/2013 6:16:15 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Neither For nor Against

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. I understand the dog breeders, who profit from continued racing, are lobbying hard to maintain the status quo.

I do not support making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages!

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

PAUL ALI
VALRICO, FL 33594

Comments submitted:
11/28/2013 3:36:32 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

For Information Only

stop the abuse and the killing, research what a greyhound endures during their life, florida has the most tracks this is an embarrassment to florida do we endorse abusing dogs maybe we should rename florida the mike vick state do something take a stand we are their voice save our culture so future generations can enjoy the greyhound its not to late take charge we elected you to serve us now do your job

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AIDA RIVERA ST CLOUD, FL 34772
Comments submitted: 11/28/2013 3:52:01 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I support decoupling of greyhound racing. Dog breeders profit from continued racing and the idea of making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Please take action now because these proud animals deserve better treatment from us. Thank you for your help getting these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: IAN JARRETT PINECREST, FL 33156
Comments submitted: 11/28/2013 6:46:49 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am in favor of de-coupling dog racing from gambling. Please make this part of your new legislation. Over the years dog racing has proven itself to be cruel to the dogs. I understand that most or all tracks lose money on dog racing, but are kept open to keep their gambling licenses, which allow other more profitable activities on the site. This makes no sense to me. Please de-couple gambling from dog racing. Hopefully this will see a decline in the cruel sport of dog racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BLAKE WILKINSON JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225
Comments submitted: 11/28/2013 7:09:55 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

It is unnecessary and makes no sense to require gaming establishments to operate grayhound racing. It is a cruel sport that yields little or no profit. Please remove this requirement and allow for the banning of grayhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MONIKA KELLER DORAL, FL 33178
Comments submitted: 11/28/2013 8:30:45 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I respectfully submit that the "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and collapsing all around the United States. The dog racing industry is fundamentally incapable of treating its Greyhounds humanely; when not racing, dogs are confined for endless hours to cages that are too small for them. We do not lock people into rooms that are too small for them to stand up in and stretch because that is considered torture, so why do we allow racing dogs to be tortured? On top of the torturous confinement the dogs endure every day they are also deprived of adequate veterinary care and fed substandard food; and when they get older, are injured or slow down they are disposed of, often taken to the Everglades and abandoned or shot; yet they are expected to perform at levels equivalent to world class athletes who are pampered like primadonnas.

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense and cannot morally nor humanely justified. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling needs to be dissolved/ decoupled.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BETH FERNANDEZ WILLISTON, FL 32696

Comments submitted: 11/28/2013 8:49:48 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support decoupling dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida and I hope you will move in this direction. The "sport" of dog racing is cruel, costly and is no longer functioning in many areas of the U.S.. Given that dog racing is strictly a money driven endeavor without care or concern for the quality of life for the dogs, it is incapable of treating the dogs in a humane fashion. Many states have already banned this cruel and exploitive sport that is only for the entertainment of those who wish to make money on the backs of these animals without concern for their individual lives and/or their treatment. In fact, Florida is one of only seven states in which dog racing still exists. Would you like your dog to live this life?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIE ROSE SUMMERFIELD, FL 34491

Comments submitted: 11/28/2013 9:26:32 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

do away with dog racing. it is inhumane and abuse.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DIANE KELLEY JACKSONVILLE, FL 32226

Comments submitted: 11/28/2013 10:19:24 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please, plesae decouple grayhound racing. It is a very cruel practices.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELENA AGUIRRE PORT ORANGE, FL 32129

Comments submitted: 11/29/2013 7:53:14 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please prohibit all dog races because is cruel and extremely hot

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELENA AGUIRRE PORT ORANGE, FL 32129

Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:16:38 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Cardrooms)

I am against animal cruelty, the animals are not our slaves, and they get injures when they run
Please prohibit dog racing in Florida

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JVONNE TELFAIR BRADENTON, FL 34203

Comments submitted: 11/29/2013 3:02:01 PM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I strongly support decoupling of greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDITH CORNELL VERO BEACH, FL 32968 Comments submitted: 11/30/2013 1:06:56 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROB KASCH WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787 Comments submitted: 11/30/2013 4:21:04 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please eliminate dog racing. It is cruel to the animals and unnecessary given the vast array of entertainment already available in Florida

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES ALLAN GRANT, FL 32949 Comments submitted: 12/1/2013 12:41:53 PM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please vote to "decouple" Greyhound racing and gambling. I am a former GREYHOUND owner and can personally attest to the conditions under which these regal animals live. Rescuing her was a life defining time. Thanks for your vote.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRIAN PORTER SARASOTA, FL 34231 Comments submitted: 12/1/2013 9:42:59 PM Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is a horrible event because the dogs are poorly treated. It's not a good industry if dogs are victims.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANGIE RHINIER MS. FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316 Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 6:15:11 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I urge you to support removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling), and END GREYHOUND RACING AND MAKE IT ILLEGAL!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHY PELTON
GREY2K USA/WORLDWIDE
COOPER CITY , FL 33026
Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 3:23:05 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Dear Senate Gaming Committee,
I am asking that you include decoupling and injury reporting in you gambling bill.
The tracks should be given the option of running the dogs or not running the dogs. Most of the tracks are in favor of decoupling since they are sustaining financial loss running the dogs.
Injury reporting should have been passed years ago and it is embarrassing. Of the seven states that still have dog racing, only Florida and Alabama have not passed injury reporting.

Sincerely,
Kathy Pelton
2995 East Budd Drive
Cooper City, FL 33026

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIRSTEN SVELA
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303
Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 4:37:26 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

My interest is in the greyhound racing area. I have no problem at all with gambling, whether by cards or other legal methods. I would like to see the decoupling of greyhound racing from these gambling establishments. I personally have 3 greyhounds who were all racers in my area of Florida, all of whom would have been put to sleep if not for me or the rescue groups that saved them. I would like to see the laws change so that the gambling casinos/arenas or whatever they want to call themselves are able to remain open and profitable without the greyhounds racing. The kennels that I witnessed pulling my last greyhound was heartbreaking and inhumane. My greyhounds have scars and permanent injuries from their racing days and no animal should be treated the way they were. The worst criminal offenders of our society live a life thousands of times more humane than these gentle creatures. Please seriously consider decoupling to allow gambling without requiring the greyhounds to race for an audience who is not even interested in their event and whom are forced to live a short and cruel life in order to keep said audience in a legal gambling establishment.

Thank you.
Kirsten Svela

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOY WENTWORTH
NOKOMIS, FL 34275
Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 5:38:21 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

I encourage you to include greyhound racing decoupling and injury reporting in the gambling bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANN SEIDNER
DAVIE, FL 33325
Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 7:27:24 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Greyhound racing is cruel and archaic. It is time to stop this abuse of dogs to cater to a small number of gamblers.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN REYNOLDS FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33304
Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 8:33:47 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to add my support for the decoupling of greyhound racing from gambling. It is ridiculous that casinos are required to include greyhound racing in order to maintain their licenses. The conditions in which the greyhounds are kept are notoriously inhumane. It is bewildering to learn that businesses are actually mandated to continue this unnecessary and cruel practice.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHANIE STANTON TAMPA, FL 33609
Comments submitted: 12/3/2013 9:52:54 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)

Greyhound Decoupling

- . Florida dog tracks have essentially become poker rooms that happen to have dogs running around in circles, with a few people watching and betting on the dogs
- . Private businesses should not be forced to lose money on one product in order to make a profit on another.
- . Greyhound decoupling will help dogs, and is a priority for the animal protection community.
- . This will not expand gambling. If anything, it will reduce gambling.

Injury Reporting

There are seven states that still have dog racing. Of these seven states, five have injury reporting. Our state Florida and Alabama are the only states without injury reporting. The public should know just how many injuries are occurring at the 13 tracks throughout Florida. It is time for the racing industry to come clean and report these injuries to the public. In the states where greyhound injury laws have been passed, there has been no fiscal impact.

Greyhound injury reporting will reduce the number of dogs that are euthanized.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROLE BASKIN BIG CAT RESCUE TAMPA, FL 33625
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 9:52:41 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Whatever you do, please include decoupling and injury reporting in the gambling bill.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BOB SENKO MIAMI, FL 33155
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:30:11 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I ask that you support greyhound decoupling and support injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ALEXIS PREISSER 1953 PLANTATION, FL 33317
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:34:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Stop greyhound racing. These animals have feelings and it is a dead industry and the only victims are the innocent dogs. Make dog racing illegal.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ED RUSSO TAMPA, FL 33634
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:35:32 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support Greyhound Decoupling. Also, please lawmakers support greyhound injury reporting. I always care about any animals welfare. Would you please cast a humane vote for the dogs? Thank you for supporting animal welfare issues. This is a voter issue for me, my friends and all my families.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA SCHAEFER DAVENPORT, FL 33896
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:40:06 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I'm speaking on behalf on the thousands of Greyhounds used for dog racing. I'm asking you to please vote for decoupling the dog racing in order to conduct other forms of gambling without having to offer dog racing. Dog Racing is a dying industry and I'm ashamed that I live in a state that still condones this inhumane gambling business. Animals are not ours to use for entertainment or business. And this is a business that is not even profitable and tax income has been declining. Dogs are bred, suffer, get injured and finally die or are killed for a non-profitable business. This is a shame. I hope you can find the common sense to put a stop to this appalling business. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHERRY WINTERS WINDERMERE, FL 34786
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:45:22 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support greyhound decoupling and injury reporting. Actually, I would rather you outlawed greyhound racing altogether. It is a cruel and inhumane sport and should be abolished world wide! However, if that is not possible, then decoupling and reporting injuries are the least you should do.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JESSICA BLAKE WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33544
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:54:02 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support Greyhound Decoupling. And further, I request that you support greyhound injury reporting. I always care about any animals welfare. Would you please cast a humane vote for the dogs? Thank you for supporting animal welfare issues. This is a voter issue for me, my friends and all my families.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ARLENE SCHUETZ FORT MYERS, FL 33912 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:57:19 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Specifically, PLEASE vote on decoupling greyhound racing. Also PLEASE vote to allow and require reporting of greyhound injuries and deaths while racing. I personally know of greyhounds that MISCARRIED while racing! I also know of greyhounds who were left to die in the Everglades, being eaten or injured by gators and other reptiles.

This is a money industry, driven by greed; there is literally no consideration or humane treatment of these gentle creatures. If they do not perform they are beaten with a baseball bat rather than "humanely" given euthanasia; after all, that would be a cost to the industry. Yes, I DO know whereof I speak; I have researched and adopted former castaways. They are the gentlest creatures I know. Please have some compassion and forget about the racing industry's tax dollars which are contributed to the State. It's not all about money...it's about being human and humane.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PENNY PERKINS FLEMING ISLAND, FL 32003 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 1:57:23 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I am urging the Gaming Committee to support greyhound decoupling. Also, I urge lawmakers to support greyhound injury reporting. These issues are important to me because greyhound racing is immoral and inhumane, and we should not exploit animals as sport and profit. I urge you to cast a humane vote for the dogs.

You can educate yourselves on the horrors of dog racing and what the animals go through by visiting the website of <http://www.grey2kusa.org> particularly this overview page:

<http://www.grey2kusa.org/#page5>

Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARCELA GARCIA BONINI MIAMI, FL 33143 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:01:15 PM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

I hope that legislature is passed in the state of Florida that puts and end once and for all to Greyhound racing and similar activities. At this time and age it is unconceivable that dogs are kept for the sole purpose of human profit. They are forced to live in small kennels, exercised just for the purpose of training for the races, and euthanized in case of injuries, which are often treatable and would allow the dog to live a long life as a loved pet, but are considered too costly for a dog that would not be able to race and produce profits. A very small percentage are put up for adoption programs, never as puppies, thus denying the dogs the right to be pets and to enjoy the love and company of a human family from a young age. I sincerely hope the Florida legislature puts aside the so called "tradition" of racing and gives freedom to Greyhounds once and for all from exploitation. They are wonderful pets, they do not deserve life imprisonment for the sake of the profits a small group of people. Make Florida an example of humanity and care of those weak creatures in the territory.

Sincerely,

Marcela Garcia Bonini

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KAREN ROBERTS THE LITTLE BLUE DOG WELLINGTON , FL 33414
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:06:30 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please help put an end to Greyhound racing. Humans should not be legally allowed to profit from the suffering and neglect of animals. Dogs are bred specifically to race, spend their lives in cages, and many are injured or killed during the race. This unethical "sport" is created by humans, for human profit and entertainment while animals are forced to suffer. Please be the voice for the dogs and put an end to this barbaric, antiquated, unkind industry of greed. We need to be better than this as a community.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WHITNEY ROBERTS LAKELAND, FL 33813
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:13:47 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Senators,
I am writing to you to tell you that I think greyhound racing should be decoupled with gaming. Greyhound racing is a dying sport and many tracks only have races because they are required to by law. The dogs are the ones who suffer because of this. They are kept confined in cages for 20+ hours a day. They are fed a horrible diet of grade D (diseased, dying, dead, or damaged) meat that is raw on top of that. Many dogs are given illegal amphetamines to increase their performance. Also when these dogs get hurt, or when they do not perform to their trainers standards, they are often killed in cruel and inhumane ways. The ones that do get rescued face a long hard road ahead of them of recovery (if possible) and training and then waiting for a forever family.

- Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense. This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

- Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

Please consider decoupling greyhound racing and gaming so that these dogs no longer have to suffer.

Thank you,
Whitney Roberts
Lakeland, FL

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIANNE LAZARUS MELBOURNE, FL 32940
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:18:07 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please vote FOR the Greyhound decoupling and Greyhound Injury reporting Bill. This does not encourage or discourage gambling in Florida. It merely cuts the loss that taxpayers are paying for having Greyhound races coupled with other gaming procedures. It is only moral to help these victims of the racetrack.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KEITH TAYLOR SANFORD, FL 32771
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:20:41 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please consider my comment as in favor of decoupling mandatory live greyhound racing in Florida. I am also in favor of eliminating greyhound racing in it's entirety. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: S HELLSTROM
KEY WEST, FL 33040
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:24:05 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Please do what is right and put an end to greyhound racing. Betting on the lives of animals is unconscionable. I personally have owned and fostered racing dogs from tracks and have gone out in the middle of the night to pull wonderful dogs off of kill trucks. Hundreds of thousands of dogs are killed each year in the greyhound racing industry simply because they are not the best runners and therefore do not make their owners money. This does not happen in the horse racing industry! The dogs are bred up north in the summer and brought to Florida in the winter season and many of the dogs do not survive the trip from no food or water during the long, overcrowded trip. This needs to be stopped as it is genocide on this breed. I can't even begin to get into the addition of gambling, the crime and the evil that goes along with all of this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TRACY VOLARIC
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:28:11 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please support greyhound decoupling. Also, support greyhound injury reporting. These issues are important to me because dog racing is cruel and inhumane. At commercial racetracks, thousands of dogs endure lives of terrible confinement and suffer serious injuries.

In the racing industry, dogs are confined in small cages barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around for long hours each day. Hundreds of dogs are kept in warehouse style kennels at each track.

Greyhounds are routinely injured at commercial racetracks, including dogs that suffer broken legs, cardiac arrest, spinal cord paralysis and broken necks. Unfortunately, not all of these injuries are reported to the public because some states do not even keep records on the number of dogs injured each year. Greyhounds are also killed when they are no longer profitable.

I ask that you do the right thing and cast a humane vote for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUSAN BOWMAN
PALM BEACH, FL 33480
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:28:37 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I realize that greyhound racing brings a lot of revenue into the state of Florida, but the conditions and the treatment of the dogs is deplorable and cruel and unwanted dogs are cast off and disposed of like trash and not the living creatures they are.

Please work to decouple the dog racing from any other bills so the industry can work for much needed reform, regulate owners and their actions and end the cruelty to these dogs!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAULINE KLEIN PUNTA GORDA, FL 33983 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:29:53 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please move forward to uncouple greyhound racing and gaming. I live with a rescue greyhound. these animals are far too sweet and loving to be abused by forcing them to live in small cages and race or die. I oppose all gambling, but understand it is probably here to stay. but to continue to allow gross animal abuse in the name of gaming is pure evil. Please uncouple the acts of racing and gaming.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RAMONA MAYER MS. SARASOTA, FL 34230 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:30:49 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Decoupling is not about whether greyhound racing should or should not be legal in Florida, but whether the state should force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another. This legislation does not expand gambling in any way. Greyhound injuries are currently being reported to the public in most states with active dog tracks. Florida is now one of only two states, along with Alabama, that do not publicly report injuries. Greyhound injury reporting has had absolutely no fiscal impact in the states where it has been approved, and will have no fiscal impact in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RICHARD QUINN SELF - RETIRED SARASOTA, FL 34238 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:34:54 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts)

Please end the inhumane racing of greyhounds. These sweet, noble animals deserve a quiet, happy life in the home of people who love them.
Keep the gambling if you must but free the Greyhounds !

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SCOTT PHILLIPS JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:47:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am for improving the care of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LUCI FOWLER GRACEVILLE, FL 32440 Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:48:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Decoupling of gambling with greyhound racing should be done now!
Greyhound racing is a vicious 'sport'. Thousands of lives would be saved if decoupling was made law. Greyhound racing has been on a steep decline for years. The only thing that keeps it alive is mandatory gambling at the dog tracks. Get rid of gambling and greyhound racing and greyhound atrocities would no longer exist in the state of Florida. Decouple now!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA BOLTON-JOUBERT SELF ORLANDO, FL 32803
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:51:55 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Good Day! PLEASE seriously consider the GREYHOUND DECOUPLING with gambling. Especially here in Florida. Dogs that "do not perform well" are often shot in the head, starved, and then their bodies are stacked in piles and left for dead. This happened in Miami not that long ago.

The dogs that they keep--they're left on site. Are shown NO love. And are left in crates as inanimate objects. Just used for profit as a product. Not respected as a living being. A loving, and amazing living being, I might add.

Man's Best Friend.

DO you own an animal? A dog? Can you imagine ANY of this happening to your furry companion?

The time has come. The time is now. Let's move away from such a barbaric "sport".

THANK YOU THANK YOU!!

Mrs Maria Bolton-Joubert

524 Meridale Ave

Orlando, FL 32803

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN COLLINS SARASOTA, FL 34236
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 2:58:19 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to support decoupling of greyhound racing from gambling. My concern is the dogs who are injured and dying or euthenized as a result of the current law that makes it necessary to have the racing. I would also like to see mandatory reporting of injuries to the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NANCY VASQUEZ GREY2K USA TERRA CEIA, FL 34250
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 3:38:02 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop greyhound racing. Let them have poker or other gambling. Stop the dog racing they are losing money and abusing dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CLAIRE WRAY ST PETERSBURG, FL 33701
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 3:40:43 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting. Please place your vote for the best interests of these poor creatures!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRIS TALLSON TALLAHASSEE, FL 32309
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 3:41:09 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please support the decoupling of greyhound racing and end the mandatory requirement for a minimum of live races each year and support the mandatory reporting of greyhound injuries.

Greyhound racing gives Florida a negative image nationally and internationally and is harmful to the reputation of our state and its continued growth and progress.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANA GENNE TAMPA, FL 33637
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 3:45:15 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Greyhound Decoupling

Florida dog tracks have essentially become poker rooms that happen to have dogs running around in circles, with a few people watching and betting on the dogs

- . Private businesses should not be forced to lose money on one product in order to make a profit on another.
- . Greyhound decoupling will help dogs and is a priority for the animal protection community.
- . This will not expand gambling. If anything, it will reduce gambling.

Injury Reporting

There are seven states that still have dog racing. Of these seven states, five have injury reporting. Our state, Florida, and Alabama are the only states without injury reporting. The public should know just how many injuries are occurring at the 13 tracks throughout Florida. It is time for the racing industry to come clean and report these injuries to the public.

. In the states where greyhound injury laws have been passed, there has been no fiscal impact.

Greyhound injury reporting will reduce the number of dogs that are euthanized.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SANDY LUACES GREY2K TAMPA, FL 33625
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 4:06:56 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Please put an end to Greyhound racing many greyhounds are abused, injured and not properly cared for. Thousands destroyed each year when of no further use to the owner I have adopted two Greyhounds that came through the efforts of some very dedicated people that work very hard to place Greyhounds that are no longer needed but too many still have to be put to sleep. We need to put an end to racing so that the breeding levels will become normalized and so many don't have to be destroyed. These are some of the sweetest Dog breed I have encountered. They are gentle, dogs that are loving and easy to own and love.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: VITRA GARCIA INDIVIDUAL MIAMI SHORES, FL 33138
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 4:09:37 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

I'm writing to ask legislators to decouple live greyhound racing. Greyhound racing is a dying industry, and now exists in only seven states. A majority (12 of 21) of all operational greyhound tracks in the United States are in Florida. In the state, the amount gambled at dog tracks declined by 72% between 1990 and 2013. Surely this is reason enough not to expose this breed to the inhumane treatment and abuse they suffer for "sport". THEY don't benefit and the State could find other ways to make up the deficit.

Public opposition to greyhound racing is increasing due to humane concerns such as confinement and injuries. At Florida tracks, thousands of greyhounds are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, in small cages barely large enough for the dogs to stand up or turn around, and animals severe neglect at Florida dog tracks and associated kennel compounds.

Decoupling is not about whether greyhound racing should or should not be legal in Florida, but whether the state should force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another. This legislation does not expand gambling in any way.

PLEASE Decouple Live Greyhound Racing. Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIRSTEN FRYLING
KITTELY, ME 03904
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 4:29:55 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Dogs are not meant to run for our entertainment. They are abused and thrown away when they can no longer run.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: REBECCA COWART
ORLANDO, FL 32807
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 4:34:14 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

The greyhounds that spend all their days either in a steel crate or on the track do not have a fit life at all. Please stop all this greed for money and let these dogs live as dogs are suppose to live.....not for the love of money. It seems these people do not care anything about the well being of these dogs and only want to bank the money. Please please stop all of the cruelty and put an end all together to greyhound racing. If anyone has ever owned a dog, they could learn the true meaning of unconditional love and what dogs can do for your health and your happiness. A person never knows the meaning of a "true soul" until they own a dog...I know for a fact that greyhounds are the most lovable and docile dogs and make wonderful pets.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROLINE SANTISE
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33411
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 4:42:11 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

If you must gamble please don't use these animals or your entertainment.
These are absolutely beautiful dogs, they run and run and run once they're done they're thrown to the side.
Please stop using greyhounds!!!
Animals should not be used for our entertainment!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAN BROWN
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 5:03:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Please end the cruel and inhumane sport of greyhound racing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STELLA MASON
SARASOTA, FL 34236
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 5:12:29 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBRA MOSHER
FLORIDA GREYHOUNDS
NAPLES, FL 34116
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 5:30:00 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
Please decouple the dog racing from the card rooms, etc. The greyhound industry is no longer needed or wanted. It is a barbaric . Having worked for several years at a dog track in Fl. I can attest to the horrendous conditions these beautiful creatures are housed and raced under. No one and nothing should be forced to live under these conditions. Decoupling and a ban on dog racing !

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERRY BRACKETT
SARASOTA, FL 34239
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:03:49 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)
I support the decoupling of greyhound racing and the requirement that all greyhound injuries must be reported publicly. Florida does not want to be like Alabama. Please make life better for these wonderful, sweet dogs.
Terry Brackett

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN ROBERTSON
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:18:01 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
Please pass the greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting bills. Greyhound decoupling is a humane proposal that will remove the state dog racing mandate, a terrible law that has become a subsidy program for out of state greyhound breeders. Decoupling will significantly reduce dog racing in the state, causing fewer dogs to suffer injuries and endure lives of confinement.
Also, please pass a bill that requires greyhound injuries to be reported to the public. Florida is now only one of two states, along with Alabama, that does not report this information. This is a common sense proposal that that will save greyhound lives.
Please cast a humane vote for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PENNY MARRA
ORLANDO, FL 32836
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:22:04 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)
We need to pass the 'decoupling bill'. And it is imperative that we make it a law to report injuries for any animal involved in racing.
I am against greyhound racing and the deplorable conditions many of these dogs must endure. Dog racing is not profitable for our state so why do we continue to allow it?
I have greyhounds as pets and these loving, sweet dogs deserve a better life than the racetrack.
Thank you,
Penny Marra

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN WILLIER DUNNELLON, FL 34434
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:35:38 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Regarding Greyhound decoupling bills. I am a volunteer with a Florida greyhound adoption group. In 2007 my adoption group closed a greyhound breeding farm and took in 28 greyhounds immediately. That resulted in thousands and thousands of expenses that we were not able to afford. The bottom line was that we were able to house the dogs with members of the group, but we could not afford the medical care that many dogs needed. So, we ran up thousands and thousands of vet bills that never got paid. I haven't read any of the decoupling bills, but I can say that most greyhound adoption groups would be hard pressed financially to take in a lot of dogs all of a sudden. Who will pay these bills? The transportation of a truck load of dogs to California or points far west would be a major cost even before medical and food bills. If the decoupling is going to take place there needs to be agreement on who is going to pay the bills for all the dogs coming. The most obvious source of funds are the gambling interests who are benefiting from getting rid of the dogs. As a round figure, based on my experience in 2007, I would say each dog should come with \$1000 donated by those who stand to benefit. Furthermore, I urge before you vote on any decoupling that a written game plan be developed on how to handle the dogs in the transition from racing to pets. Otherwise, there will be chaos. Just think of breeders being put in a position of not having adequate income to care for their dogs because racing has been cancelled. This could be thousands of dogs lacking support all of a sudden and very few adoption groups are well enough funded to handle such an influx of dogs from a financial perspective. A good idea would be to close one track per year and still adoption would need support from the gambling interests.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA MCDONALD NAPLES, FL 34113
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:51:49 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please do the decent, compassionate thing and end all dog racing in Florida. There is no need in this day and age to exploit these poor creatures. People who want to gamble have ample opportunities to do so without forcing another species to participate. Dog racing is unnecessary and immoral.
Thank you. Linda McDonald

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CINDY RORAGEN LAS VEGAS, NV 89161
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:54:30 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am for decoupling! I live in Nevada and we do just fine without live dog racing. Florida will too.
I urge you to look out for animals and decouple live racing and gaming. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BONNIE BLOOM GREY2K LONG WOOD, FL 32779
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:59:28 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Being the owner of a beautiful rescued greyhound, I can write from my heart that these gentle animals should not be forced to race, or worse injured or killed. please give consideration to decoupling, as that at least would lessen the inhumanity of the "sport". Also please have Injuries reported. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. It means the world to me and my lovely grey.
Sincerely, bonnie bloom

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHERYL CHRISTENSEN UNIVERSITY PARK, FL 34201

Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 6:59:54 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Imagine driving down the road at 45 mph and the driver next to you loses control - causing a serious accident for both of you. Now imagine this happening on a racetrack between two Greyhound dogs that have no seatbelts, airbags, and 2000 pounds of metal helping to cushion their impact.

I witnessed this type of collision at the Sarasota dog track just before Valentine's Day earlier this year. The agonizing sounds of those screaming dogs is still fresh in my mind. I wondered what happened to them after this terrible thing and I was stunned to learn the state does not require any public reporting of Greyhound injuries. Please consider changing the laws to require Greyhound injury reporting. It would be easy to do. The trainers would complete an injury report, and give it to on site state regulators. No costs would be incurred by the State, and the Division of Parimutuel Wagering would have no obligation to analyze these records. Changing this law will allow the public to have accurate information about dog racing in Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROSA POPOWSKI PORT ORANGE, FL 32129

Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:01:40 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Cardrooms)

I don't care about the card games, the slot machines for gambling but I do care about the cruelty to greyhounds, and people betting on the dogs running in the extreme heat of the Florida sun,
Please end the animal slavery!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Thanks

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL POPOWSKI PORT ORANGE, FL 32129

Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:11:18 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Cardrooms)

The cruelty is obvious in the dogs racing, the dogs are raising only to run, as an industry and when they are not good, they will be killed
The animal suffer as well
Thanks

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTY BORRIELLO WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33545

Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:25:04 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

Please support greyhound decoupling. Please support greyhound injury reporting. Please cast a humane vote for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EMILY BLOCH GREY2K HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:39:57 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

There is absolutely no reason why greyhound coupling shouldn't exist in the field already. As an owner of rescued greyhounds over the years, the abuse that is evident in these dogs -- treating them as toys, rather than living breathing animals -- is atrocious and heart breaking. Many people don't even realize that the casinos are unable to stop racing because of the coupling. Please consider greyhound decoupling. It is a passé sport that more people are against than for these days.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATHERINE KOUFAS-EISBACHER LARGO, FL 33774
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 7:57:08 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Economic Impacts)

As a Florida taxpayer, I am tired of my hard earned dollars being spent to keep a cruel and antiquated "sport" operating. Greyhound racing is a dying industry, and now exists in only seven states. A majority (12 of 21) of all operational greyhound tracks in the United States are in Florida. In the state, the amount gambled at dog tracks declined by 72% between 1990 and 2013.

At Florida tracks, thousands of greyhounds are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, in small cages barely large enough for the dogs to stand up or turn around. Additionally, since 2004 state investigators have documented at least nine cases of severe neglect at Florida dog tracks and associated kennel compounds.

The mandatory racing requirement forces greyhound tracks to offer live greyhound racing as a "loss leader" for other, more viable forms of gambling. This comes at a significant cost to both taxpayers and track operators, and conflicts with free market principles.

Decoupling is not about whether greyhound racing should or should not be legal in Florida, but whether the state should force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another. This legislation does not expand gambling in any way.

Since 1990 the amount of taxes collected by the state for live greyhound racing has declined by 98% from more than \$75 million in 1990 to less than \$2 million in 2012. In the same year, the state spent \$1.88 million on the regulation of live dog racing. Because regulatory costs now exceed the tax revenue from live racing, Florida is losing money on greyhound races.

Please support decoupling!

Katherine (Tina) Koufas-Eisbacher

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA STOLL MIAMI, FL 33173
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:35:27 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I just want to put a stop to dog racing here in Florida and throughout other countries as well. People are just not interested in dog racing and go just for the casinos. The breeding of greyhounds for racing should be discontinued because most of them are "put down" killed after a short life span and the life they have is very cruel with much suffering. Please consider closing dog tracks in the State of Florida. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DEBBIE LAMB SARASOTA, FL 34243
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:41:16 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please consider these wonderful animals when voting on laws affecting greyhounds. Their injuries should not go unnoticed and should be available for the public to view. Injured dogs are often adopted by people willing to care for them instead of having the dog euthanized. Anything that we can do to help these dogs who are so loving is a step in the right direction for the humane treatment of these animals.

Thank you,
Debbie Lamb

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL BROWN PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32407
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:41:20 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please eliminate coupling of Greyhound racing

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA GIOVINAZZO ST. PETE BEACH, FL 33706
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:46:25 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against dog tracks for the simple reason that animals like Greyhounds are treated like a commodity rather than respected and loved as a living, breathing creation of God. I know for a fact that the dogs are treated poorly, housed in cages for extended periods of time, mistreated and then tossed aside like trash when they no longer generate profits. It is irresponsible and cruel!!! There are plenty of other options for gambling, so there's no reason why dogs have to be exploited they way they are now at dog tracks. I know a young man who worked at the dog track in St. Petersburg and the experiences he shared w/ us about the Greyhounds would break your heart. Please have a heart and do the right thing and end this horrible way of life for Greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTINE QUESADA JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 8:58:23 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please support greyhound decoupling

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SARAH HARRISON GAINESVILLE, FL 32608
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 9:23:53 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am in favor of any additional regulations that would protect greyhounds from mistreatment at the hands of the gambling industry. Any ideas, plans, etc. to help these animals are a great idea! Of course, stopping greyhound racing altogether makes the most sense. Las Vegas style gambling would be both more lucrative for the state of Florida and far less cruel!!

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CONSTANCE FRANKLIN LOS ANGELES, CA 90026 | Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 9:26:05 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | Neither For nor Against |

As one gravely concerned with the ethical regard toward animals in sport, I am writing to ask you to support a common sense law, Greyhound injury reporting. This law will have no fiscal impact in the state of Florida, and will save greyhound lives. In states where greyound injury reporting laws have been enacted, the number of greyhounds being euthanized has significantly declined. It makes sense to protect animals in an industry in which they cannot protect themselves. This simple and humane law is easy to implement, and I hope I can count on your support

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CHRISTOPHER WRAY FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312 | Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 9:33:11 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime) | Neither For nor Against |

Please support greyhound decoupling and support greyhound injury reporting. Greyhound racing is a declining past time that needs to go away for good. It is a bane to both the gambling industry and a wonderful breed of dogs. Decoupling will prevent forced races, which will let tracks phase out racing if they choose. Injury reporting will add transparency and force the industry to act ethically.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | KELLY FAIRCLOTH GREAT, INC. TAMPA, FL 33614 | Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 10:11:04 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Neither For nor Against |

I am writing to request that greyhound racing be decoupled from all other forms of gambling. It is long past time to end the exploitation and suffering of greyhounds for the sake of "sport." The industry would have already died a natural death if it hadn't been artificially propped up by forcing dogs to run in empty stadiums so that patrons can have what they really want - card rooms and video slots. In addition, please pass a law that tracks greyhounds from birth to death. Don't allow the racing industry to hide the disposition of greyhounds; force them to be accountable for the innocent lives they brought into existence. Sincerely, Kelly R. Faircloth

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | ROMA STROCZENKO SEFFNER, FL 33583 | Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 10:26:33 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Community Impacts) | Against Expansion of Gaming |

I respectfully request your support for Greyhound Decoupling and Greyhound Injury reporting. I believe this is the most humane thing to do for the welfare of Florida Greyhounds. Thank you for your consideration.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | MARTINE DE LA TORRE BOCA RATON, FL 33431 | Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 10:46:25 PM |
| | | Position: |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Against Expansion of Gaming |

Greyhound Racing must stop!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It is disgusting the way these poor animals are treated, if more people new the behind the scene cruelty to these poor dogs , it would surely be a thing of the past. Please stop this ridiculous way of gambling.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BILL ROLAND JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256
Comments submitted: 12/4/2013 10:50:15 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

It is truly sad that some dog tracks are operated only to keep a gaming center open. If gaming is okay, why force dogs to live the miserable life they live so that poker can be played? Just let them play poker. Decouple greyhound racing. It makes good sense.

Also, I support requiring injury reporting in greyhound racing. The system will work much better with some transparency. The number of dogs saved I sure to be significant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANITA WALSH CORRALES, FL 87048
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 1:44:09 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please just ban this cruel 'sport'. Think of what a dog means to most people. Now think of how these animals are used as commodities, with all the cruelty and abandonment this 'sport' causes,

Thank You.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENNIS SANDERSON SARASOTA, FL 34233
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:25:47 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I sent this message to you once before, but I am sending it again now in the hopes you will truly consider and act upon the unquestionable logic of decoupling and also injury reporting concerning our racing greyhounds. Please read and then act upon legislation that will profit the dog tracks and protect greyhounds and diminish dog racing in Florida.

Please see below:

The business of dog racing has been in slow decline over the past 10 years or so...and yet the business of business is profitability. There has always been a knowledgeable concern regarding the injuries and death inherent in the lives of racing dogs. As a win-win circumstance, I would urge you to consider removing the requirement that dog tracks host live racing in order to offer other forms of gambling (decoupling). I believe allowing these tracks to focus on profitability through slots and table games such as blackjack, poker, and roulette would provide the track with adequate profitability and possibly begin the elimination of dog racing altogether. Racinos are currently legal in ten states and those states substantially benefit from the additional tax revenues gaming brings in. I ask you to seriously consider this path. The hope is ultimately to end dog racing altogether. However; until such time as this becomes reality, I would urge you to also require injury reporting for greyhounds. I believe these proposals I have mentioned will significantly benefit the dog tracks, the state of Florida and ultimately help the racing greyhounds live less painful lives. Please work to make this happen.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA LANDERS
COCONUT CREEK, FL 33063

Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:56:21 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Dear Elected Official,
I respectfully request that you support decoupling of gaming and greyhound racing in Florida. I also request that you do whatever is in your power to END greyhound racing all together in Florida.
We have many other forms of gaming that do NOT require the abuse and mistreatment of living beings, namely greyhounds. Humans have the privilege to choose what type of gaming they want to play - innocent greyhounds DO NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE in what happens to them. It is inhumane and immoral to continue to allow greyhound racing to exist.
Again, I respectfully request that you allow decoupling and any other proposals that will help to ensure the end of greyhound racing.
Thank you for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FEDERICA CORBELLINI
MILAN, FL 20135

Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 5:27:07 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Gambling is not a game, is a crime. Horses and dogs die for it! Please stop gambling animals!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BONNIELEE MCGUIRE
VENICE, FL 34293

Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 7:06:40 AM

Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please help the Greyhounds. Since you allowed poker rooms at the race tracks, people spend much more time there than at the races. Let's face it, Greyhound racing is slowly dying, please put a stop to it now.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

SHIRLANE FERRANTE
PALM COAST, FL 32164

Comments submitted:
12/5/2013 8:51:15 AM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Against Expansion of Gaming

It is a sad day when animal abuse is the base to keep gambling up and running..

This year I have reached many conclusions that maybe were questionable..I have discovered the American Government's greed, knows no bounds, (republicans, at least the democrats keep things in tow and also keep their constituents in mind.

I was not only outraged, but disgusted at the antics pulled by congress,,I have never seen more hateful, blatant disrespect for the President,,If it was my boss, I would have been fired. The republicans proved beyond a shadow of a doubt, it was all about them coming out ahead and grabbing every penny they could. Which brings me to the point at hand,,the lengths you people will go to to make a dollar,,I guess it is only to be expected that a government that would throw the people it's raping under a bus to get the last drop of blood, would even be more heartless about animals.. It is less then despicable to support and want to expand torture and abuse of innocent animals to keep your casinos going..

It is a sad state of affairs when the government is so above and so out of touch with reality that they cannot see the situation people are living in,,trampling people to get the sales on black Friday, the increase in home invasions, robberies, child abuse and it trickles down to animal abuse..and you should know about that as some in government are guilty (Romney) of animal abuse.

Your actions set horrible examples for the people,,it's ok to abuse an animal, especially when we are making money off their abuse..the only thing that matters is money, money is the bottom line, why feed the poor they have no money, why protect animals, they have no money, but if we can make a dollar off their dead bodies, why not..

When is life,any life going to become more important? And all this money, when you have polluted and killed every one of the earth's resources, What happens then??who/what will you abuse to make your money???

STOP THE INSATIABLE GREED,,IT SICKENS ME..CREATE GAMBLING LAWS THAT DON'T USE ANIMALS..IF YOU WONDER WHY THERE IS SO MUCH ANIMAL ABUSE, ETC IN THIS COUNTRY, LOOK TO YOURSELVES, YOUR GREED IS A FINE EXAMPLE FOR ALL TO LIVE BY..IF I DON'T HAVE MY OWN I WILL TAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S, I WILL KILL SOMEONE/SOMETHING EVEN FOR \$5.00..

Take a look around, I know i went a little off the target, but it is all related..is torturing an animal worth the example you set??can't you make horse and dog racing virtual??

I know the outcome of all of this,,I lived in Jersey for Atlantic City,, "we will build the neighborhood up..) ...yeah, right,,not a penny went into the development of that city,,walk out of a casino on to the boardwalk and see all the beggars..and that is exactly what will happen here, you will expand and make your money, the animals who work for you to help you make your money,,hmm sounds like you abuse and make money off everything that you can..so why give a damn about dogs...I AM SO AGAINST EXPANDING GAMBLING AND HATE DOG RACING,,(here is what is so sad, i don't even know why i sign anything or express my opinion as you are going to do whatever you want, the people have no voice)

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHELE STEPHAN SARASOTA, FL 34236 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 8:51:16 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I have been adopting greyhounds from the track in Sarasota County, Florida for 15 years. While the dogs I have had have been the most wonderful pets, they have all come to me injured, physically scarred and emotionally scarred. I understand the desire to make money and I don't begrudge the kennel owners and the tracks for their profits. However, I also do not think the legislature needs to require a track to have 100 live races when it is not financially sound for the track or embraced by the public. (As I understand, tracks loose money on the live racing.) I support decoupling. Also, I wholeheartedly support the reporting of dog injuries at tracks. The first greyhound I was set to adopt had a broken foot. The kennel did not seek veterinary assistance but "set" the foot themselves with tape. After weeks of "healing" I took the dog to my vet to be neutered (to enable the adoption) and was told that the dog would never be able to walk. That beautiful Class A racer, who had made the kennel owner buckets of money, with a home to go to after retirement, had to be put down due to the gross negligence and greed of the kennel owner. Again, I don't begrudge the kennel owners the ability to make money. I do believe that it should be done in a humane and morally sound way. For that reason I do believe it is so very important that injuries be reported.
Michele Stephan

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDITH HANKINS NONE JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 10:08:26 AM

Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I support grayhound decoupling, which will allow owners of gambling establishments to cease racing greyhounds. I also support greyhound injury reporting requirements.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KRISTEN BURDEN LAKELAND, FL 33809 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 10:08:28 AM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Compulsive Gambling)

Please outlaw Greyhound racing. There is no sport in this and it is strictly for betting and gambling purposes. it popularity lies only in the cheap accessible no line betting that is available. Extensive studies show the dogs are treated horribly and many suffer horrible conditions. <http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/cruel-sports/greyhound-racing/>

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBIN DEL GUIDICE TAMPA, FL 33626 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 10:24:20 AM

Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I beg you to, please, decouple Greyhound racing from poker rooms and other kinds of gambling. Our Greyhounds are beautiful, loving creatures who deserve a better life than the one they receive at most Greyhound tracks.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ADI AVIN CHARLOTTE, NC 28203 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 11:39:54 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I write this with the hope that this committee realizes that not only dog racing is cruel and has unimaginable consequences to Greyhounds both on and off the track, but also puts the state of Florida in an extremely negative light throughout the country and the world. Florida is a giant contradiction. On the one hand it promotes it's diverse wildlife and preserved national parks yet is a leader of cruelty and exploitation of animals (Greyhounds). It doesn't make any sense. From strictly a business perspective, dog racing has been proven to be a financial loss. It's time to turn things around and for Florida (who is currently a major hub for dog racing) to become a LEADER in the U.S and do things right!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MONIKA LOGALBO CHICAGO, IL 60642 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 11:45:02 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please support greyhound decoupling. Also, support greyhound injury reporting. Cast a humane vote for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHER PACE LADY LAKE, FL 32159 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 12:22:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Dear Gaming Committee, please support greyhound decoupling. Also, I ask the lawmakers to support greyhound injury reporting. These issues are very important to me, for the health and protection of these wonderful animals that endure pain and suffering needlessly. Please I beg you to cast a humane vote for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANDREA LOFTIN AUSTIN, TX 78750 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 12:24:46 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please put an end to dog racing and similar activities! This is total abuse to animals and I do not support anything that exploits animals for the purpose of human entertainment and profit. Greyhounds are beautiful animals that deserve a better life than this! Please Florida, take a stand against animal abuse!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARANA EUBANK TREASURE ISLAND, FL 33706 Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 1:00:38 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I ask you to support greyhound decoupling. Let the tracks offer gambling without requiring running the dogs. I also ask you to support greyhound injury reporting. Greyhound injuries are currently being reported to the public in most states with active dog tracks. Florida is now one of only two states, along with Alabama, that do not publicly report injuries. Please cast a humane vote for the dogs. Thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NINA COGHLAN SEBRING, FL 33872
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 1:14:25 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to support the decoupling of the greyhound racing, and also in support of greyhound injury reporting in our state. These beautiful and gentle animals deserve a break. Greyhound racing is declining everywhere, and Florida is no exception. Please, let us treat these animals with respect and humane treatment.

Thank you,
Nina K. Coghlan

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LIZ COLLINS STUART, FL 34997
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 1:21:31 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing in support of two issues: decoupling live greyhound racing and greyhound injury reporting. It's time to decouple live greyhound racing and let the tracks decide what type of gambling they want to offer. As greyhound racing is both inhumane and unprofitable, it would be a win-win situation for all. Florida is one of only two states that does not publicly report racing injuries. This law will save greyhound lives with no fiscal impact to the state. Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AMANDA ALDERMAN ENCINO, CA 91316
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 1:22:34 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop using beautiful greyhounds for gambling and racing. Save them. Stop Greyhound and any kind of dog racing!!! Thank you so much.
Amanda Alderman

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERESA ALVAREZ MYSELF MIAMI, FL 33138
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 1:58:26 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please stop dog racing now. We must stop the abuse of animals! Please support decoupling and allow the casinos to continue without the dog racing. Why was that even ever combined? As Martin Luther King said: "One day the absurdity of the almost universal human belief in the slavery of other animals will be palpable. We shall then have discovered our souls and become worthier of sharing this planet with them."
? Martin Luther King Jr.
The time to stop is NOW.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MYRA GOODMAN
GREY 2 K
PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33024
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:05:57 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am very against greyhound racing and the cruelty and abuse that goes along with it. There should not be a law that states you must have live racing if you want gambling. People are no longer interested in the racing they just want to gamble, so let them. Why should the dogs suffer? They are kept in cages 23 hrs. a day, fed food that's diseased, abused, injured on the track and very often put in a cage with their broken limbs untended to. They suffer heart attacks ,stroke, concussions, brain injuries and decapitations all so someone can make money. WHY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Decouple that's all we ask, people can still gamble ,but please, if you have any humane feelings in your body how can you let this go on. Let them have their gambling if they want, but don't make the dogs suffer any longer. Decouple!!!!!! Also lets get the reporting of injuries, so people really know what goes on behind closed doors. I thank you for reading this and pray you will do the right and humane thing.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CAROL COTTON
MYSELF
TERRYTOWN, LA 70056
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:07:18 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Please help the dog

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: HELEN CARDINI
DELTONA, FL 32738
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:46:48 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

Florida-Dog racing..."Decoupling" We need your help to eradicate dog racing in Florida. Home to 12dog racing tracks. Most in U. S. It is extremely inhumane, and cruel to allow these beautiful and smart breed of dogs (Greyhounds) to be treated in such matter. Please help get these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages. Please pass and support the bill for "decoupling" dog racing from other forms of gambling in the state of Florida. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and animals suffer. We all should oppose dogs being forced to spend 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food. Greyhound racing is dying industry. More and more dogs suffering is not going to save this industry.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KARIN CARLSON
AOPKA, FL 32703
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 3:56:57 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Please support greyhound decoupling.
Please support greyhound injury reporting.
I adopted a greyhound and have experienced the sweetness and beauty of these animals.
Please cast a humane vote for the dogs.
Thank you.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ARTHUR BENJAMIN DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 4:05:56 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I write in support of greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting, I believe these changes are good for the perception of our state nationally and for our economy in the long term and is best for our state welfare and our responsibilities to animals.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: YOCAIRA TAVERAS NEW YORK, NY 10032
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 4:35:03 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

I cant believe you guys race poor dogs to their death!!!! Poor greyhound is like Florida got nothing better to do.... Your animals laws suck and is sad to see a state so beautiful being so ignorant and cruel towards animals!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LINDA BASS GREY HOUNDS FORT MYERS, FL 33905
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 5:06:21 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Asking the Gaming Committe to support greyhound decoupling. Also the lawmakers to support greyhound injury reporting. So many of these dogs are treated so cruelly and then no medical help, they are just left ot suffer in pain. I've seen it first hand, but it has been ignored among the lawmakers. Please cast a humane vote for the dogs.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ANERA SKURIC ZAGREB, OUTSIDEUS 10000
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 5:48:18 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

We are fighting to save greyhounds for years! We are trying to find them homes all around the world, just to save their lives! Stop greyhound racing now! We know you can do that, please save their lives!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LYN CASSAN VENICE, FL 34292
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 7:05:31 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am against the greyhound racing because this cruelty lessons who we are as a state of caring rational beings.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIM LOOMIS BOCA RATON, FL 33428
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 7:18:48 PM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Good evening,
I am writing in support of greyhound decoupling as well as reporting greyhound injuries.
Please help safe these amazing animals!
Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Kim Loomis

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY STEWART LONGWOOD, FL 32750
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 8:36:29 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am an attorney and a longtime greyhound owner and rescuer. By working with greyhound rescue groups I have had the opportunity to see first-hand the effects of greyhound racing and my resolve to end racing has grown. I have no problem with gambling. If someone wants to gamble, let them gamble. However, I have a huge problem with betting on greyhounds when I know what is at stake. I have visited kennels to pick up greyhounds to go into a rescue group knowing that the dogs that do not leave with me are going to be killed to make room for the new ones coming in. Sadly, this happens every week at most kennels.

What is really beyond frustrating about this is the fact that the dog tracks are operating under an antiquated law that requires dog races in order for the track to continue to offer other forms of gambling. There is no logical reason for this requirement. This is the year 2013 and lawmakers need to understand that our society is evolving and the rights and welfare of animals are more important than they have ever been. Further, the more educated people become, the more they want to see anything and everything abolished that hurts animals. And the fact is, greyhound racing hurts greyhounds. There is no way to allow racing and prevent the suffering of greyhounds at the same time. Greyhound racing equals suffering and it must be stopped. Therefore, please do the humane thing for the dogs and support greyhound decoupling. In addition, until racing is abolished, please support greyhound injury reporting. Without some accountability the dogs will continue to be persecuted. We are their only hope. Please do not let them down.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA UFHEIL DAVIE, FL 33324
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 8:45:06 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT INSIDIOUSLY NEGATIVE IMPACT THE PARIMUTUAL RACING HAS ON OUR COMMUNITY. KEEP THE WAGERING AS LEGAL AS POSSIBLE BUT PLEASE, PLEASE STOP THE TORTURE OF INNOCENT ANIMALS FOR OUR "GAMING" PLEASURE!! THIS SPORT MAKES US EQUAL TO THE BULL FIGHTING, BEAR BAITING AND SO MANY OTHER HORRENDOUS "SPORTS" WE INFLICT ON HELPLESS ANIMALS. PLEASE DON'T FORGET--WE ARE ALL GOD'S CREATURES GREAT & SMALL. WE SHOULD BE TEACHING THIS TO OUR CHILDREN. BUT REMEMBER, THEY REALLY LEARN BY EXAMPLE!
THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERATIONS, PATRICIA UFHEIL

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLOTTE STEWART DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 8:59:52 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

The only thing I love more than my daughters first greyhound is my daughter!!! Just look into their eyes. Put and end to dog racing!!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: STEPHANIE COX MANZANITA, OR 97130
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 9:43:49 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

Racing dogs is animal abuse.....it adds nothing valuable to a community, encourages gambling/gaming and is completely unnecessary and cruel.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CRYSTAL LAWS CURRITUCK, NC 27929 Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 8:41:00 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I'm writing on behalf of the Greyhounds. By it's very nature Greyhound racing leads to lot's of "waste". What happens to these animals when they don't perform, don't impress, get old? It's not pretty. Part of the problem is simply inherent in the industry. Always needing fresh and new bodies...the old ones pile up. There is already quite a burden on the States with homeless animals. Nothing about the end of the road resembles even remotely, the end of a greyhound. They are not "typically" placed in a home, with a family- they are not pets and don't finish out their days laying on green grass. They are treated like so much garbage and abandoned, starved, beaten, shot, and poisoned. The Greyhound racing industry brings a high cost in lives. If DECOUPLING leads to less death, then let's have it, but there is simply too much death associated with this industry along with greed and great loss.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NICOLE BARTON MIAMI, NY 33131 Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 9:44:25 AM Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

This comment is in support of decoupling greyhound racing and gambling. From the information I have read in the Gambling Impact Study and from my own research online, it is clear that greyhound racing is in the decline. Spectator interest has declined drastically in the last decade as well as the revenue brought in from the support. In fact, figures point to greyhound racing even producing a loss for many race tracks, which only leads to poorer conditions for the greyhounds. It simply does not make sense to force business to hold greyhound races in order to be able to hold other forms of gaming. It is cruel to the animals, forcing them to be confined 20+ hours a day in cages in which some can't even stand up fully erect, and then to subject them to the cruel and inhumane treatment and activities that racing is comprised of for these beautiful animals. It makes sense to make it the choice of the track owners based on demand for the sport, whether or not they want to hold greyhound races. Supply should meet demand, especially when it could only benefit the treatment of these dogs, as well as the track owners themselves. This will neither increase gaming or decrease gaming, just make it more subject to the demands of the market. I was shocked to hear that greyhound racing is forced on gaming facilities, it should be an option, not a requirement, especially when there is such strong public support for ending the cruel and inhumane treatment of greyhounds.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRISTIE FAELLA ASHLAND, NH 03217 Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 10:12:57 AM Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Other)

I am writing to encourage the Senate Committee on Gaming to go ahead with proposed legislation for decoupling. I am a frequent visitor to the beautiful state of Florida and I love to gamble. However, I cannot abide dog racing. After enjoying the privilege of 12 years of living with a rescued former racing greyhound, I never again set foot on any property which offered Greyhound racing live or via TV. My understanding is the cost of overseeing Greyhound racing has now outstripped the actual revenue generated by dog racing. Since 1990 the amount of taxes collected by the state for live greyhound racing has declined by 98% from more than \$75 million in 1990 to less than \$2 million in 2012. In the same year, the state spent \$1.88 million on the regulation of live dog racing. Because regulatory costs now exceed the tax revenue from live racing, Florida is losing money on greyhound races. Thus it seems to me to make sense to allow other forms of gaming to be available to the public without the prerequisite of offering dog racing. I hope you will please think over this suggestion as I look forward to future gaming on warm beach locals, minus dog racing!

Submitted With All Due Respect

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOHN MCMANUS GREY2K USA ST. JAMES CITY, FL 33956
Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 11:04:27 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Family and Social Impacts)

Greyhounds should not be used as an attraction where little or no added care is provided. Many dogs have injuries that go unpublished and hidden from the public view. Many are considered abused because of the lack of care. There will be, someday, a suite against the tracks and THE STATE OF FLORIDA for not protecting these animals. Without protection of these animals all are guilty.

Protect their (greyhounds) butts and you will be doing your job!!
thank you for taking the right road and stop racing greyhounds.
Jack McManus

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JOSEFA ARANA THE PEOPLE MIAMI, FL 33175
Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 11:08:40 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

For decoupling of dog's races as a form of gambling. I'm against animal cruelty

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JULIE BERRY CLEARWATER, FL 33764
Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 12:00:42 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Gambling and Crime)

Making dogs race in order to allow slot machines makes no sense!!! This forced union of two unrelated forms of gambling inflicts pain on the dogs and does not benefit the tracks. Businesses should not be forced to hold races when they lose money and the animals suffer.

I oppose dogs being forced to spend about 20 hours each day confined to small cages where they receive inadequate veterinary care and substandard food.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. Since 2001, the dog racing industry has been cut in half with the number of states that conduct racing reduced from 15 to 7 and the number of tracks conducting racing also halved. More dog suffering is not going to save this industry.

One of my very best friends has a greyhound rescue and I can tell you first hand what a gentle, loving, and sweet dog she is. PLEASE help get these gentle and loving dogs out of their cages, Florida!
Thank you very much.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDITH RISTOW OSPREY, FL 34229
Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 3:30:47 PM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

I am writing about decoupling greyhound racing from other forms of gambling because of the cruel and inhumane nature of racing. Thousands of greyhounds are injured and killed each year by this. I have two adopted greyhounds who are the most gentle and loving dogs I have ever had, which is true of the breed. I appeal to you to end the requirement to have greyhound racing in order to have other form of gambling.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

DEBBIE TAYLOR
TAMARAC, FL 33321

Comments submitted:
12/6/2013 4:51:12 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Animal welfare or decoupling (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) Against Expansion of Gaming

As a native Floridian and lifetime resident, I totally support decoupling in gaming areas, Due to the inhumane treatment imposed on these beautiful, loving creatures, I am asking that you please support the initiative in making a change for greyhounds that will positively impact the world in which they currently live. Thank you for your consideration and merciful decision. .

11—Internet cafes or adult arcades

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: AUDREY PRUETT
NONE
DELTONA, FL 32738

Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 8:54:13 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

When the internet cafes were shut down they said there were about 1000 of them There would have been even more except some counties had none and harassed many out of business. If gambling is legal in many ways make the cafes legal and tax them. It will provide the state with much needed money. We are senior citizens that need this out let to thrive. Since they shut down we are all so lonely. Complusive gamblers will find a way to gamble if they are open or not. We spend about what we would spend in an afternoon card game.If the owners make a ton of money GOOD for them. That is the American way. We do not all live near a big casino nor we have the money or energy at our age to travel that far for entertainment. Besides it isn't the same thing as a small internet café where we see the same people everyday.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ROBERT LEWIS
MELBOURNE, FL 32904

Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 11:12:25 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

i have always voted straight republican ticket. but after you'all took away my only enjoyable entertainment (INTERNET CAFES) I will not vote republican again unless you bring back the internet cafes.that includes gov.scott!!! everyone i talk to in my district feels the same as i do,young & old.you have also damaged many supporting businesses & strip mall owners.also leasees located next to cafes!!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KIMBERLY LEWIS
INERNET CAFES
PALM BAY, FL 32909

Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 12:42:12 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

THE AMERICAN DREAM IS FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.
STOP ALLOWING THE INDIANS TO MONOPOLIZE THE GAMING INDUSTRY.
MANY PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED FROM THE RECENT INTERNET CAFE SHUTDOWNS.
I AM FOR INTERNET CAFES!!!!
STOP THE CORRUPTION

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHERYL MORGART
PALM BAY, FL 32909

Comments submitted: 10/12/2013 7:25:25 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

I am for internet cafes and they are a social event for many elderlies and provide many jobs

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONALD BRAWDERS
MARDI GRAS
PALM BAY, FL 32909

Comments submitted: 10/12/2013 7:30:26 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

Good for providing jobs and entertainment

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHRIS HART
MARDI GRAS AMUSEMENTS
MELBOURNE, FL 32934
Comments submitted: 10/13/2013 9:11:07 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

hello, im a 27 yr old male who has a 2 yr old son and a wife. my wife is currently enrolled in nursing school while I work 6 to 7 day a week to pay the bills. shutting down sweepstakes has now put us straight to the unemployment line and food stamp line. I have worked in the arcade/ sweepstake world for 8 yrs now. it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with the public who love to support us. we here at mardi gras are a family who has now been separated. the patrons who support us here love coming here daily, not only does it give them something to look forward to on a daily basis but also keeps them sharp (by using a computer) and as you know most of our patrons are elders. foremost there is nothing wrong with sweeps and arcades, we do not force people to come in the spend money, they come in on their own will. it also has employed over 20,000 people for years now. the question I ask is why shut everyone down? allied made bad choices and should pay for them, but why does everyone have to be grouped in with the bad? why not investigate and regulate? the state could benefit greatly by taking a small piece and letting a thriving small business stay in business. why do the Indians get to become rich wile everyone else struggles?

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DONALD ODEHNAL
ORANGE PARK, FL 32073
Comments submitted: 10/15/2013 12:01:56 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

we have a lot of fl people going to Mississippi to gamble why should we lose that revenue and the worry that low income people will spend money on gambling that the don't have go to a place that sells lotto tickets and see if a lot of those people buying those tickets don't qualify as being low income

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: RAYMOND PIANKA
PALM BAY, FL 32909
Comments submitted: 10/15/2013 4:01:01 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

Not only do I enjoy internet cafes to play and to use to searf the web. I was employed at one that was shut down. We had people coming in on a regular bases to enjoy playing and to enjoy fellowship. We have ahard time understanding way it took so long to close us down? If casino gambling and bingo is okay why cant we be regulated by the state of Florida? It will make a lot of people happy and the state will make a lot of money.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLES TEDDER
MELBOURNE, FL 32901
Comments submitted: 10/15/2013 4:49:28 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

Please allow Internet Cafes to stay open.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JAMES BLACK
SELF
MELBOURNE, FL 32901
Comments submitted: 10/19/2013 2:52:21 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

My wife and I are in our 70's and have recently retired to Florida from Ohio. For recreation we enjoy playing in these establishments. Because of a few rotten apples in Florida your solution to solve the problem is to cut down the apple tree. This eliminate many job and takes away many elderly peoples recreation. I'm asking you to do your jobs by reopening, monitoring and controlling these establishment. This will help improve employment in Florida and keep many of our elderly off the streets.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICIA NASH
MELBOURNE, FL 32935
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 9:32:52 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

You need to reopen our internet cafes.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TEE WALKER
GAINESVILLE, FL 32609
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 12:39:01 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I believe that Internet cafes provided entertainment and for some people, the ability to have a reason to leave their house. My mom, who is disable, loved going to the internet cafes just so that she could have something to do that didn't require a lot of money and she got to mingle with the other folks at the cafe. It was only her only means of a social life and a chance to make a little bit of money. I believe if there was better monitoring of how the funds of these establishments were being used, the ban on internet cafes would have never happened. I think they should be brought back. For the disabled, the elderly and those who liked gambling. Thankyou.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM CAREY
CLEARWATER, FL 33763
Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 5:24:15 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

The law that shut down Internet Cafe's also prohibited the non-gambling web site "World Poker Tour" from operating in Florida. This site which is legal in approximately 40 states, is a poker site that allows membership for a \$20 per month fixed fee. It provides a fun entertainment playing POKER and is very mainstream and a highly popular TV show that has operated trouble free for over 12 years.

Why this internet entertainment was swept up in the Internet Law is a mystery ans a mistake that should be corrected. The great majority of "World Poker Tour" members are retired senior citizens that can't easily get around and just want to have some fun playing poker.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHARLYNE MILLER
YEAR
CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 8:42:57 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Florida Seniors can not always travel far from home to enjoy the company of their friends and have a little entertainment. I like the idea of a community environment for them . Being around people that they share a small community or neighborhood with and feel safe .Which I found to be true when visiting the internet cafe and arcades

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SUE SOARES
SENIOR VOTERS
FORT PIERCE, FL 34951
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 9:42:02 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

many older people (VOTERS and taxpayers) had the change to get out for a while and enjoy the environment which included lunch, meeting new friends and some gambling..because of Scotts L.G. the rest of us have to suffer....again...remember we VOTE...I live in a 1600 home adult community and your decision has affected many seniors...please do the right thing...

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PATRICK STANTON
NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL 32169
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 10:16:45 AM
Position: For Information Only

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

I believe the adult arcades should be allowed but they should have to go to an independent game laboratory to confirm that all their games are predominantly skill based. I believe that all transactions should be electronically monitored and recorded for the state so that in the future accurate information is available about the operations and economic impact of these businesses. The cost for these changes would be born by the arcades and the increased expense the state would incur for the monitoring would be offset by increased tax revenue due to the monitoring.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FATHER BOB CAUDILL
SOUP KITCHEN
OAKLAND PARK, FL 33309
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 10:39:46 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades (Other)

I run a soup kitchen that was receiving funding from game rooms. They were shut down in april. We have lost a revenue of about 60K a year. This forced us to stop the free breakfast and lay off a worker. We feed the poor ever day we give clothing and we give medicines.

The way we had it before was excellent. It seems to me it was a problem in enforcement weeding out the bad non charities with the good ones.

Thank you
Father Bob Caudill
Soup kitchen

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRANDON HAUGHT
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 1:02:57 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades (Gambling and Crime)

It is imperative that the Florida State Legislature to amend House Bill 155 to allow veterans' service organization granted a federal charter under Title 36, United States Code to operate amusement games and machines. The haste and initiative you show as elected representatives, individually and collectively in furtherance of this cause, will be to voters a measure of your success in office.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MICHAEL FAZEKAS
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32244
Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 2:56:23 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades (Compulsive Gambling)

If you don't have many casinos in one area there is no competition. I lived in Vegas for 2 years and everyone is competing for your business. We don't want a casino in Duval or Clay county. We want our Internet cafés back the way they were. they were a lot of fun and didn't suck the area of all it's money. We had a better chance to win plus meet a lot of people. They were all over town so there was a lot of competition and the ones that didn't pay went out of business. I believe if they passed a law stating that the software companies must be located in the state, that would make it easier to be regulated and taxed . The cafés were so much fun, seniors would actually go out at night instead of sitting home. I know of many of the players friends and families including our own that wanted to take vacations here. That's right, Jacksonville, are they out of there minds, no , this was the best thing seniors have ever experienced. Thanks for reading Mike Fazekas

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARY RIVENBURG OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974 Comments submitted: 10/24/2013 9:53:52 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
BRING BACK ADULT ARCADES, PLEASE

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JERRY MILLER OCALA, FL 34470 Comments submitted: 10/27/2013 2:03:24 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
Tens of thousands people lost their jobs because HB 155. It's just a domino effect on everybody. Just bring the senior arcades and the internet back. Please do something right for us the seniros for one time "legislators".

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MELINDA SYKES ME AND MY FRIENDS BRADENTON, FL 34205 Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 6:49:34 AM
Position: For Information Only
Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
To the politicians that we all voted in office. Please allow us to go and do as we please we worked our whole life and in our golden years if you don't drink at bars. golf or love to shop there aren't a lot of activities. We love going to our arcades for \$20.00 or so a day and spending a few hours amongst friends having something to eat or coffee or just a snack. Frankly I just can't believe that the state of Florida would give these people authorization to open do business and then pull the rug out from under them very dirty oh well us Floridians better get used to it I'm sure its only gonna get worse. Please leave us alone and let us play our penny arcades. I can't stand the Hard Rock I only go there every once in a while but you can bet I would never go with just \$20.00.. and as for the lottery I can't even get 3 numbers so got discouraged with that. Please allow us to have our arcades and be able to get gift cards there is noooo way a gift card can be cash...

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LAWRENCE SANSONE NORTH PORT, FL 34287 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 10:37:43 AM
Position: Neither For nor Against
Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
My name is Lawrence Sansone, I opened my business 5 years ago in honor of my late wife. I am 78 years old, I too, go to my arcade (7 days a week) to socialize with our members many of which I have personally known for more than 30 years) I have run my operation for 5 years now, I have a member list of 16,000 friends old and new (and registered FL voters). Senior Arcades are a legitimate business and thousands have been negatively effected by the unclear verbiage in HB155! Please make it right.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHEILA MYDOCK LAKELAND, FL 33805 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 11:19:59 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades
My husband and I attended the Internet Cafes and there were about 90% senior citizens there. We enjoyed our time there and I feel they should be allowed to remain opened. Of course, there has to be a way to control the managing of them. The Seminoles have no problem staying open. Any solutions to this? Thank you for your attention to any and all requests.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

ROSWITHA GRIEBEL
WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708

Comments submitted:
10/30/2013 4:53:30 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

For Expansion of Gaming

I am a senior citizen that used to enjoy very much the internet cafes. It was a place where I could go and do a little gambling with a small amount of money. When you go on the boat or to tampa you have to have quite a bit of money that you can afford to lose. It was also a place where you could be around other people and just have some fun. I don't why Florida just didn't regulate them and collect taxes, instead of closing them up. I keep hearing that Florida does not allow gambling. But it does allow horse racing and dog racing. Is this not gambling. I think Florida would benefit from more casinos, that do not belong to the Indians. When the internet closed it put a lot of people out of work. It also hurt the businesses around them. I think Florida should put up their own casinos, and reap the rewards for the state. Thank you

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

ROSWITHA GRIEBEL
NONE
WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708

Comments submitted:
11/29/2013 10:21:00 AM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

For Expansion of Gaming

I woud just like to let you know that alot of senior citizens really enjoyed the internet cafes. I feel they have their place here. It is great entertainment for litle money. It is a lot easier for us to get to an internet cafe, than to get to tampa hardrock casino or the boat. I also think that if you would ask the litle restaurants and small businesses that were around the internets you would find that alot of us used them. I think if you would legalize them and regulate them they would add income for the state My friends and I would love to see them come back. Don't throw out all the apples because of one bad one. Most states have allowed gambling I think it is time for florida to join this century. You can't compare allowing gambling in florida,, to becoming like Las Vegas or Reno. Those are solid gambling states. I received a letter from nocasinos.com and I don't agree with their statements at all. I come from Erie Pa.. They allowed gambling a few years ago and put in a casino. It has actually brought some funds into the city which were needed. I guess I just don't see what harm the internet cafes caused. Thank you . Roswitha Griebel

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

RONA HISIGER
LAUDERHILL, FL 33319

Comments submitted:
10/30/2013 6:31:03 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

Neither For nor Against

I am asking to get my senior arcade to become the way it was. we were not hurting anyone, but helping a whole lot of seniors. we come the these game rooms, to socialize, and pass time, have a meal and see our friends. the way these clubs have been forced to operate is ridiculous. most of the patrons are over 70 yrs old and need these rooms. the big casinos are too far and too expensive for these patrons. please get it back to way it was. thank you!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHIRLEY PHILLIPS CRAWFORDVILLE, FL 32327 Comments submitted: 10/30/2013 9:52:23 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I am a 72 year old female and have been extremely upset with the closing of the internets in our small community.This has affected a lot of people that went to the internets to socialize, play games and have fun meeting new people.Within five to ten minutes people could go and spend time. It gave us something to do that was not causing any problems.These people were left with nothing to do""""""".It created revenue for the county, gave people jobs,increased participation at local restaurants and service stations.The old saying goes One spoiled apple spoils the whole crop. In this case the Mom & Pop businesses were victimized because of wrong doings of other. I have gone to Georgia and the parking lot has always been full of cars with Florida license plates. People came from Quincy, Tallahassee, Perry and all surrounding areas to patronize the cafes in Crawfordville.Some of these people came in wheel chairs just to get out of their homes and be around other people.Most of us cannot afford to drive the dangerous interstates to go to s. florida. It's too far and costly and would be too tiring for the seniors. I pray that the senate will realize that more harm has been done to the seniors and tax paying citizens of Florida by closing the cafes down, and will let the Mom & Pop businesses reopen as they were for years.We need the revenue in the small communities. Let"s give the citizen their rights back....and give back to the communities and keep the revenues here to support our local citizens;There are thousands of people that this closing has hurt financially, mentally & physically.....Thank You for your consideration.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: WILLIAM STOVER CAPE CAVERAL, FL 32920 Comments submitted: 11/1/2013 3:03:12 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades Position: For Expansion of Gaming

good clean entertainment for adults and elderly.we miss greatly fellowship. Don't take away freedom from the elderly and handicaped.we should have a right to spend money however we choose.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERRY KASBERG INTERNET CAFE'S SPRING HILL, FL 34609 Comments submitted: 11/8/2013 11:07:23 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades (Economic Impacts) Position: For Expansion of Gaming

I spoke at the Nov. 4th hearing and needed to expand on what I spoke about.
The need for internet cafe's are critical to our economy.
Each County would be enormous.
Very little crime.
Vacancy ratio's will decrease.
Employment will increase. Catering business's etc.
Money made will support each counties needs.
Most seniors cannot go to these big casinos for allot of reasons.
Internet Cafes' offer free food, drinks and a better environment for seniors.
Please see the impact on the state if allowed to operate.
Millions of dollars are going out of the state to Mississippi now as a result of these stores being closed.
These are finite sweepstake games not class 2 gambling machines. The software games have a beginning and an end like scratch off tickets.
If each store were charged a fee, the amount of money to each county would be enormous. It would and could out do the Hard rock Cafes'in respect to tax's and provide a better,safer,enviroment for our communities.
Please take a hard look at this again.
Thanks You so much.
Terry Kasberg

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

PATRICK WALSH
COMMUNITY
GREEMACRES, FL 33463

Comments submitted:
11/13/2013 11:08:26 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

Whether the State, Officials, or counties agree to having them, the fact remains that it does bring in many employment opportunities to the community. The main reason that officials and State are not allowing them to stay open is because you have not figured out exactly how you are going to get the taxes from the proceeds each location makes. Secondly, the Seminoles have been lobbying against them as well for fear it is taking a chunk of their profits away from them. They have several officials in their pockets that are helping them to close down these Internet café's and other adult Arcade locations. There is plenty of individuals in Florida that enjoy gambling and in no way hurt the Seminole profits at all. They make millions where as these smaller Cafe's only make thousands a week. The solution would be for government to figure out with the owners of these cafe's or persons involved with them to find the best way for government to get the taxes that are due. These cafe's bring into the community approximately 10 jobs per location, each location also helps the other local business's by purchasing their gift cards to give out to the winners, which in turn is also keeping the local business making money also. Its a win win opportunity. These cafe's also use the local restaurants to feed the players so they to are making profits keeping the flow of monies in our local communities. If there are about 60 of these cafe's in PBC, that is over 600 jobs. That alone keeps people from filing bankruptcy, faulting on mortgage payments, having their power turned off and so on. It also keeps local construction workers employed because each location has to use electricians, plumbers and so on. By shutting these down, you have only hurt thousands of workers and their families in just PBC let alone the rest of the State. Start looking at the broader picture, it may help you come to a more wise decision. I for one need employment or personally I will have to leave Florida to find employment elsewhere. I may not have a job at one of these cafe's or Arcades, but there are those that did. You may contact me via email if you would like further insight to these cafe's and Arcades, I was in the business for many years. I was out of the business prior to Gov. Scott shutting them down but still know the ramifications from what has been done. Sincerely, Patrick W.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

MICHAEL FAZEKAS
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32244

Comments submitted:
11/13/2013 1:48:18 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

Subject: Internet cafes

I lived in Buffalo NY where they had 2 casinos about 60 miles apart. The one in Niagara Falls was a complete casino with hotel, while the one in Hamburg race track was a para mutual. After I retired I moved to Las Vegas for 2 years where there were casinos on every corner. I came to Jacksonville in 2003 were they still had the the cruel greyhound racetrack (100 deg.) and that was it. Then came the Internet cafés and poker rooms at the same time. The poker rooms were doing great but the cafés were the best thing I have ever seen. If you never played it's hard to understand how important they were for the area and the great social and fun entertainment for seniors. We actually saw other player's relatives and friends as well as our own from all over the country want to take vacations in Jacksonville. My inlaws from Western New York wanted to come for 3 months (help!) . There were so many the competition was fierce, the ones that didn't pay went out of business. The social interaction was like nothing I have ever experienced before. Seniors (70's) would actually go out at night feel safe and stay out late. The fun factor was off the charts, plus no smoking. I say it should be up to the counties to decide if they want them and I assume if there is a casino in that county they wouldn't be welcome. I also think the software companies should be located in the state so the can be regulated. The cafés were located all over town bringing life back to dead areas were other businesses were opening nearby. Please bring them back the way they were! Thanks for reading Mike Fazekas

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: MARIA DIMINNO
ADULT ARCADES
PT ST LUCIE, FL 34952
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 12:11:04 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

It is terrible what has been done with the adult arcades!!!! I would like to have them back just the way they were. Many people are missing them n the economy in the communities where they were has definitely taken a beating.....

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LEONARD BENNETT
HILLIARD, FL 32046
Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 8:08:18 PM
Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades (Gambling and Crime)

You shut down the internet cafes but left the ones across from Regency Square mall and the dog track in Orange Park what is good enough for the goose is good enough for the gander. If one should be shut down then all should be shut down. This stinks of a deal.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PAT DOUGHERTY
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548
Comments submitted: 11/15/2013 1:51:09 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

I am not in favor of allowing additional destination casino resorts to be built in Florida. I believe this will have a negative impact on small business owners and the general economy of Florida residents. I am, however, in favor of allowing gaming (slot machines)in internet cafes, adult arcades, or any business that caters to adults only. As long as there is an age minimum of 21 established in a private business, slots should be allowed. I disagree with allowing slots to be added ONLY to Ebro Greyhound Park or similar establishments. I agree that the current gaming laws in Florida are out dated as well as inconsistent. State laws should govern the entire state, not certain areas of the state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SCOTT MACDONAD
SELF
CAPE CORL, FL 33990
Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 10:29:47 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

It is an expression of the free market, free choice and what America should be.
Regulate owners and have them post a bond.
Keep children out of arcade.
Allow adults to spend THEIR money however they wish

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DENISE CROON
SELF
CAPE CORAL, FL 33990
Comments submitted: 11/18/2013 11:53:25 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

How is this any different from taking our kids to arcades, fairs, Chuckie Cheese and spending \$100.00's of dollars for them to win a stuffed animal and we can't go and enjoy ourselves at a senior arcade and spend our adult hard earned money as we see fit.

Kids can win comfort with winning a cuddly teddy bear but mom and dad can't enjoy a couple hours out and play to win a gift card for a restaurant to enjoy a nice meal out on their next time out from their kids or spend winning tickets on items they wish to purchase.

These casinos employ people and offer gift cards that stimulate economic growth. And you talk about supporting small businesses? Don't take this opportunity away from the mom and pop's and give all the large casino operators the monopoly of reaping the benefits that should be offered to local small business owners and the residents to put money back into their own economy and tax base.

Thank you for your time, Denise Croon

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JUDITH L. HENZLER
CAPE CORAL, FL 33904
Comments submitted: 11/30/2013 2:37:43 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades (Other)

For the gaming committee: Please consider keeping the Arcades open and allowing gift cards. My mother, 93 yrs. of age, loves this activity and along with her friends, look forward to winning these cards and going shopping. This little bit of enjoyment and a chance to win a little without taking them to a large casino is a wonderful thing for caregivers...such as me and enjoyment too. I know financially you'll hear about the economical side of it, so I just thought you'd like to hear this side from the 'older ladies' who love this activity. Thank you for all you do for us.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHIRLEY KAGAN
APOPKA, FL 32703
Comments submitted: 12/6/2013 12:46:38 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Internet cafes or adult arcades

Games rooms should not have been closed because they are an enjoyable place for elderly people to go. They gave folks something to do. I have no idea why they were closed. If the reason was because people were spending their Social Security checks, that makes no sense. I would not play if I could not afford it.

12—Family arcades

| | | |
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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JAMES HARHI JFH TECHNOLOGIES LLC WINDERMERE, FL 34786 | Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:31:14 PM Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Family arcades (Internet Cafes or Adult Arcades) | |

I am against lumping arcade coin op machines operated by legitimate companies into the Internet Cafe. There is a clear difference between internet cafes and family entertainment centers.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | JOE SCHUMACKER SPAREZ, INC DAVIE, FL 33328 | Comments submitted: 10/23/2013 8:48:35 AM Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Family arcades (Economic Impacts) | |

Senate Committee on Gaming

The issues surrounding gaming in Florida are both complex and emotional. There are a multitude of interests involved in the greater gaming issue. In cases such as this, it is very difficult if not impossible to satisfy the needs of all parties. Just doing what is right is a good platitude but does not address the fact that all parties believe their position is right. It seems then that the first threshold in forging public policy on gaming is to not create collateral damage to unintended parties. Unfortunately unintended negative consequences were created by the signing into law of House Bill 155 in 2013. The Prohibition of Electronic Gambling Devices law was intended to eliminate internet cafes and shut down illegal gambling. Unfortunately it has thrown the legitimate family entertainment center business into disarray. Investment in family entertainment concepts is being restricted creating a loss of revenue not only to the legitimate operators of amusements but also to the State. Jobs which would be created by the growth of family entertainment centers are going unrealized.

The family entertainment center businesses, including water parks, bowling alleys and restaurants were impacted in an unintended but dramatic way. You will receive significant input as to what specifically needs to be done to correct the problems created by the 2013 law. My intent in these comments is not to recite "talking points" but rather to encourage you to not let the correction of the unintended consequences created by Prohibition of Electronic Gambling Devices law be overwhelmed and buried by the magnitude and emotion of the greater gambling issue. The real risk for operators of family entertainment centers is the existing law will continue to be in effect as it is currently written and be enforced.

Joe Schumacker
CEO SpareZ Davie
Past President, Bowling Centers Association of Florida
Past President, Bowling Proprietors of America

13—Other topics

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: FRANK INSERRA
SELF AS HORSE OWNER
MIRAMAR, FL 33023

Comments submitted: 10/11/2013 8:22:16 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Other

Have very serious concerns that Tallahassee has so much corruption and favoritism within the policing of the gaming in this great state that it's a sad and illegal meaning of the law.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: DAVID BURKE
PANAMA CITY, FL 32404

Comments submitted: 10/16/2013 9:44:02 AM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Other

No government that runs a lottery has any business telling anyone else they can't gamble.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ELAINE HARMYCH
DAVIE, FL 33324

Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 2:40:56 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Other

In my opinion ,the Seminoles got the deal of the century at the expense of Calder,Gulfstream,etc. No expansion is necessary,just add craps and roulette. Gambling is not going away and it started WITH THE LOTTO THE WORST SUCKER BET OF ALL FORMS OF GAMBLING! It has the worst odds and it hurts the people that can least afford it! Why in the world isn't there craps or roulette? If the state is against gambling get rid of the Lotto.

As for the impact on citizens,PLEASE LET ME MAKE THAT DECISION! Does anyone in Tallasse play in a football pool? As for Internet cafés,it is primarily a place where lonely people go to socialize and have a little fun. Are the odds of winning prizes any higher than Lotto or Powerball? I think not! Add roulette,craps re-negotiate with the Seminoles and level the playing field with the other gambling venues by lowering their taxes.

Please do not be HIPPOCRATES and pretend Florida does not have GAMBLING!!! While you are at it let's have a sports book. The State is losing millions to Internet betting! Please use some common sense!

Thank you for providing a venue for my input!

Respectfully,
Elaine Harmych

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KARL KANIPE
SELF
TITUSVILLE, FL 32780

Comments submitted: 10/22/2013 12:01:14 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Other

favorite pastime

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LARRY TRECARTIN
HOLIDAY, FL 34691

Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 8:14:41 PM

Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Other

I am definitely against the expansion of gaming...

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: SHAWNA ANTOSH BRANDON, FL 33510
Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 5:21:58 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Other
Please stop!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: KATE HENKEL BOYNTON BEACH, FL 33436
Comments submitted: 11/22/2013 1:30:14 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Other
Please, I urge you to put a stop to this!

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: PRESTON NEIMEISER TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 8:51:15 AM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Other
I don't think we should be striving to be the next las Vegas. It would be much more prudent to invest in ecotourism anyway.

14—Multiple topics addressed by same respondent

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
10/19/2013 10:13:43 AM

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

Position:
Neither For nor Against

LEGAL GAMBLING AGE

What should be the legal age for gambling? Can you be too young; and is it possible to be too old?

Some states set their gambling age at 18, while most have set it at 21. Some states have it both ways. (Florida). At 18 you can gamble on some games and others you will have to wait until your 21. I know of no state that has a maximum age limit for gambling.

Most agree the 18 and 21 year age requirement has more to do with the drinking age than gambling.

A person can fly a plane, drive a car, own a house, get married, hold public office, and serve in the military at the age of 18 years, but in many casino's that same person cannot play a slot machine or a game of blackjack. In some states a person can play in poker games and bet on horse and dog races at 18 but cannot play a slot machine until they turn 21. Should there be a topping out age? It is often argued that the proprietors of gambling establishments take advantage of the elderly, enticing them to play games and lose their money. If at a young age you might be considered too immature to play gambling games might you also be too senile at an advanced age?

The concept of age being a deciding factor in one's legal status for gambling presents an interesting dilemma. If the decision is made that a person at an advanced age can still gamble as long as he is capable of understanding what he's doing and not simply cut off because he reaches an predetermined age, say 90 or 100; then why is the same standard not used at the early ages? If a 17 year old person is mentally capable of understanding the gambling games and the risk their taking, why can't they play? If the test is mental capabilities, why does age come into play only for young people?

| | | |
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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | TERRY TERRIL LAND O LAKES, FL 34638 | Comments submitted: 10/19/2013 10:29:13 AM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Multiple (Racinos and Pari-mutuels) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE PARI MUTUEL MESS

First things first. End the practice of classifying these businesses as Pari Mutuels. Start referring to them for what they are; Horse Racing, Grey Hound Racing, and Jai alia.

People who want to be in these businesses can apply for a Horse racing permit, or a Grey Hound racing permit, or a Jai alia game permit. The rules should be specific for each event.

Horse racing involves several different types of horses, the use of Jockey's, sulkies, drivers, trotters and pacers. The Jai alia games are played by humans. Grey Hound racing is limited to Greyhounds with no Jockey. These are all totally different events.

If the owner of a Horse track, Grey Hound track, or Fronton wants to offer slot machines, a poker room, or table games for their customers they should apply for the appropriate permits covering those activities, pay the fees and taxes, abide by the regulations and satisfy their clients with good service.

All permits should be stand alone permits. Taxed, licensed and regulated by the state equally.

The state should not be in the business of promoting and protecting gambling monopolies. This practice of law making has caused the disgrace that is the current set of laws governing horse racing, Grey Hound racing and Jai alia.

If Grey Hound racing, Jai alia, or horse racing is a losing business proposition then the owners should not be forced to keep it operating. If they want to limit their offerings to a few races on weekends, one championship race a month, or twenty races a day, that should be a business decision, not an act of the legislature.

The local 7-11 store isn't required to sell two cases of Beanie-weenies each week to keep its lottery sales in operation. They aren't required to sell 10 cartons of cigarettes and two bags of ice a day to offer the \$20 scratch off ticket.

Telling the track they're required to have 100 races to qualify for a stud poker table is lunacy. Telling others they have to offer Greyhound or Horse racing before they can offer their customers a game of Texas Hold em is nuts.

All of this nonsense, which is really designed to protect certain current businesses, promotes tricky lawyers, inventive machine makers, smart computer programmers, and frustrated law makers.

If the tracks and Frontons want to add poker and slots, or start selling TV's, let them get their permits and good luck. The current madness of making special deals for each operator is doomed in the long run.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
10/19/2013 11:29:46 AM

Position:
Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

SENIOR GAMBLING

One popular rallying cry used by some people proclaims the proprietors of gambling establishments are taking advantage of seniors. The seniors are being lured into the gambling establishments where they squander their nest egg, lose their home, and soon end up on the street looking for a handout or become wards of the state or possibly cause themselves great bodily harm. The facts tend to tell another story.

There have been dozens of studies done by universities and individual groups looking into seniors and gambling. There are current studies underway, and there will be many more still to come. But of the information currently available a few facts have surfaced about the activity.

Most senior gambling is problem free. But seniors are classified as a high risk group because they have more opportunities to gamble. They have money and time to spend.

A large majority of seniors report they go gambling to socialize, be entertained, and have fun. Gambling for them has become a popular pastime. They enjoy the camaraderie, safe settings, and the occasional win along with a visit to the buffet.

One study done by Janet Hope and Linda Havir, published in the Journal of Aging Studies, found no evidence that casino gambling threatens the financial or physical well being of seniors. There are other studies that report gambling as a safe recreational activity for seniors.

Another example often cited in gambling research, is a University of Guelph study, (a research university in Ontario). They found the vast majority of seniors in their sample enjoyed gambling as recreation, recognized its dangers, and had largely effective attitudes and behaviors to minimize problem gambling risk." (gamblingresearch.org).

It must be recognized that people who reach the senior status and have a retirement and other assets, are not suddenly left completely without common sense. You don't usually make it that far in life being stupid. Too often the seniors are sold short in being able to continue to make rational decisions about their own life.

The proprietors of the gambling establishments do recognize the seniors as exceptional customers. They do cater to them, and they do take their money. But the exchange of goods seems to be mutual.

A note here is warranted. If the government regulates the industry, they have control over what percent of the seniors money the proprietors are allow to take. If the seniors are being ripped off, the government must share in the responsibility.

Some seniors do fall victim to compulsive behavior and do destroy their financial well being participating in the gambling games. It does happen. The percentages reported are not clear but it is generally accepted to be less than 1%. As a normal part of life, some people will harm themselves by drinking, smoking, using drugs, over eating, not exercising, careless driving, gambling, and a host of other activities. The freedom of choice is a tricky concept. Seniors are one of the fastest growing groups of gamblers.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
10/20/2013 3:42:26 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

Neither For nor Against

SLOT MACHINES

During the past 100 years there have been dozens of different types of machines invented for people to use entertaining themselves. Besides making money for the owners, many of those machines were instrumental in promoting gambling among their users. Pin ball machines, shuffle board machines, bowling machines, pool tables, and many others. To no one's surprise, the slot machine, has emerged as the all time favorite of the people by a large margin.

Part of the lure of the slot machine is that it's easy to play. A player doesn't have to learn anything to get into the action. Most card games, dice, roulette, bingo, racing and other popular games demand at least a little knowledge to get started. Not the slot machine. Just put your money in and push a button, and fate will take it from there.

During this process most players report they're having fun. Much more fun if they win, but still enjoying the interaction when they lose.

So why is there such hysterical opposition to the slot machines? What is it about people playing slot machines, that drives others to the brink?

Consensus of the opposition is the idea that these people are foolishly losing their money. This conjures up the contention they are somehow responsible for others people's money. Some say the slot players are being taken advantage of by the owners of the machines; they are unaware of their losing position. Here again this puts the nay-sayer in a position of being responsible for the other persons personal decision making.

It is also interesting from a psychological perspective, to try to understand why some people have such a strong need to protect strangers from this particular form of recreation. It's easy to make a long list of other activities that are far worse for our fellow man than a slot machine.

Can you think of any other machine, used strictly for recreational purposes, that has caused so much controversy? Cries continue to be heard from its detractors that the slot machine is the cause of addiction, compulsive behavior, increased crime, family instability, bankruptcy, moral decay, and a host of other evils. There are those who still consider the machines as the cause of world disorder and a tool of Satan himself.

Being licensed to operate slot machines for public play has been one of the most lucrative of the gambling activities. The machines can be programmed to guarantee a profit. From a business perspective the slot machine is a godsend. The slot machine remains the goose laying the golden eggs.

Florida law making has created a mess out of the slot machine issue. Trying to have it both ways, legal and illegal, has led to dissatisfaction by the players and the providers. Legal wrangling over the definition of a slot machine; the minimum age of the players; who's allowed to own and operate the machines; and where they can be installed; has mystified most gamblers. If you own a Grey Hound racing facility, why should that give you preferential treatment to open a slot parlor?

Instead of wasting time trying to define what constitutes a slot machine, a job most now can see is next to impossible; maybe the state would more adequately serve the people if they made sure the machines were regulated and taxed. That the owners had proper permits, and were not cheating their customers or falsely advertising themselves as a charitable organization.

How the machine looks and feels should be between the owner and the customers. Where the slot parlors are located should be a local issue, based on equal opportunity, not on who makes the best Eggs Benedict breakfast, or how many Jai alia games were played.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
10/30/2013 11:26:45 AM

Position:
Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Family and Social Impacts)

LEGAL GAMBLING AGE

What should be the legal age for gambling? Can you be too young; is it possible to be too old?

Some states set their gambling age at 18, while most have set it at 21. Some states have it both ways. At 18 you can gamble on some games and others you will have to wait until your 21. I know of no state that has a maximum age limit for gambling.

The 18 and 21 year age requirement has more to do with the drinking age than gambling.

A person can fly a plane, drive a car, own a house, get married, hold public office, and serve in the military at the age of 18 years, but in many casino's that same person cannot play a slot machine or a game of blackjack. In some states a person can play in poker games and bet on horse and dog races at 18 but cannot play a slot machine until they turn 21. Should there be a topping out age? It is often argued that the proprietors of gambling establishments take advantage of the elderly, enticing them to play games and lose their money. If at a young age you might be considered too immature to play gambling games might you also be too senile at an advanced age?

"Many Seniors gamble to block out pain or problems, such as declining health, loneliness, boredom or the death of a spouse. Others say they gamble for the thrill." Senior Gambling Article, L. Weston.

The concept of age being a deciding factor in one's legal status for gambling presents an interesting dilemma. If the decision is made that a person at an advanced age can still gamble as long as he is capable of understanding what he's doing and not simply cut off because he reaches an predetermined age, say 90 or 100; then why is the same standard not used at the early ages? If a 17 year old person is mentally capable of understanding the gambling games and the risk their taking, why can't they play? If the test is mental capabilities, why does age come into play only for young people?

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
ITS ABOUT GAMBLING
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
10/31/2013 11:10:20 AM

Position:
Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

Abusing the gamblers.

Abuse; to use wrongly or improperly. To maltreat, to attack with insults, revile.

The Florida Legislature has created a serious conundrum in their attempt at revising Florida's gambling legislation in 2014. It appears that the legislature is seriously abusing the gamblers.

Billions of dollars are reportedly coming to the state coffers from current legal gambling activities. The gamblers are voluntarily giving their money to state run gambling operations, the Seminole tribe, and private providers of gambling facilities, who all pay the state a percentage of those billions of dollars, for the privilege of providing gambling games and activities to the public in a non competitive environment.

At first glance one would think the representatives of the people, who are the custodians of those billions of dollars, would be thankful for the unprecedented windfall. One might assume somebody from the state would be grateful enough to send the gamblers a Christmas card each year thanking them for their generosity, but that does not seem to be the case.

Instead each year the members of the legislature generally ignore the gamblers and often berated them as social misfits who are characterized as a drain on public services. They're characterized as buffoon's who are incapable of handling their own personal finances.

Local officials are quick to claim that many of the gamblers are involved in criminal activities or are indirectly responsible for additional criminal activity in the community. It's reported these benefactors often become addicted to gambling and are viewed as a general nuisance to the society.

Gambling studies report that a large majority of all gambling is problem free.

Yet the legislature has continued to make it as difficult as possible for the gamblers to enjoy their chosen form of recreation. They limit the places where the gamblers can go for their entertainment. They restrict the gamblers from playing many of their chosen games, they've put limits on their betting, they force the gamblers to play at bad odds, and one baffling oddity is the regulation of specific ages for gamblers playing certain gambling games. The law makers generally appear disgusted with gamblers and the gambling activities; while at the same time they covet the gamblers money.

In recent hearings which are intended to gather information that would be used to redo gambling law in Florida, not one legislator has asked any of the gamblers what they would like to see changed that would help make their gambling experience more pleasurable.

The attitude prevails; we want your money but we despise you and your type of recreation. What other business treats their primary customers this way? Why such abuse?

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
ITS ABOUT GAMBLING
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
10/31/2013 12:39:30 PM

Position:
Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

THE LOTTERY "Lotteries; a wonderful thing: it lays taxation only on the willing." Thomas Jefferson

Let's give credit where credit is due. The Florida Lottery has been, and remains, one of the best Lottery operations in the country. It has brought "BILLIONS" of dollars to the state coffers. So far there has been little criticism and few scandals surrounding the Lottery Office.

Still there are a few philosophical concepts that should be reviewed. Profit margins, programs receiving revenue, and advertising are just a few.

Are the profit margins of the lottery causing harm to the citizens? Maybe the players should get a bigger slice of the pie.

Why is the profit margin so high? Who sets the mark for the profit margin? Why is the lottery exempt from truth in advertising law? Does the Lottery target specific groups? Are they taking advantage of the uninformed?

Charles Clotfelter and Philip Cook, both highly respected professors from Duke University made this observation: "The deal that typically has been struck in the United States is that lottery revenue will be dedicated to good public causes. This virtuous end thus serves to justify the dubious means."

This brings up the obvious point; should there be any limit on the amount of revenue taken from the players?

Clotfelter and Cook also pointed out that "once a lottery is in place, the amount of revenue it generates depends largely on how it is marketed. Do the "ends" of more revenue justify aggressive or deceptive marketing efforts?"

According to Ellen Perlman in her book, Lotto's Little Luxuries, "The Lotteries purposely mislead players about their chance of striking it rich."

In the National Gambling Study Commission on Lotteries report, one criticism pointed out that the lotteries economic benefits are offset by its expanding the number of people who are drawn into gambling. Worse, lotteries are alleged to promote addictive gambling behavior, are characterized as a major regressive tax on lower-income groups, and are said to lead to other abuses. Even more troubling, however, is the general criticism that the state faces an inherent conflict in its desire to increase revenues and its duty to protect the public welfare.

Gambling is very attractive, particularly to people who need money. The Illinois Lottery did a study to see who gambles, and found people who made less than ten thousand dollars a year gamble six times more often than those who earn over fifty thousand dollars a year. People know they can win millions by risking a dollar. A recent program on the Discovery Channel stated that gambling is so attractive, that when the power ball lottery is high, ninety percent of eligible adults buy a ticket. There is no other commodity where the percentages are this high. The real odds of winning a state lottery are approximately fourteen million to one, the same odds as being hit by lightning seven times while waiting in the lottery line.

Some critics charge that the "earmarking" of lottery funds for education is misleading and that in fact the legislature often reduces the appropriations it would otherwise have given to education from the general fund. Supplanting is the term often used. This could be an area for discussion and debate among educators and government officials.

Other critics say that overall funding for the designated recipients of lottery revenues was nil. They speculate that the result has been an increase the discretionary funds available to the legislature, which may be a key reason for the popularity of lotteries in the state houses.

There is no question the gamblers like to play the lotto games. As bad as the odds are, regardless of where the money goes, and as deceptive as the advertising has become, lottery ticket sales continue to grow. The apathy of the gamblers when it comes to knowledge about the activity is a reality.

W. C. Fields, the famous American vaudeville comedian and juggler is credited with using the phrase; "never give a sucker an even break or smarten up a chump." Today W. C. might have a high paying job in the lottery office.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | TERRY TERRIL ITS ABOUT GAMBLING LAND O LAKES, FL 34638 | Comments submitted: 10/31/2013 1:06:11 PM Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Multiple (Family and Social Impacts) | |

UNDER AGE GAMBLING

Under age gambling generally refers to the age range of 10 to 17 years. Most studies report that this age group has a 70 to 80 percent participation in some form of gambling within a span of one year. Most of their gambling is considered small time action; playing cards, betting on sports, and buying lottery tickets. Information about how much gambling they do over the internet has been difficult to obtain, but there is no doubt it is growing rapidly.

Part of the problem in gathering information from this age group is the validity of the responses. Kids or teenagers are under a lot of peer pressure, most still live at home under the supervision of their parents and could be subject to pressures unlike older adults.

Gambling can be the catalyst for other additional problems for this under age group.

Ed Looney, a member of the Council of Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey says that as a rule of thumb, 80% of kids who start gambling will just dabble in it with no further harm, 15% will have some signs of problem gambling, and 5% will become addictive. Here the definition of dabble, problem and addictive gambling is clouded.

Most people interested in the issue will agree that teens and younger kids are gambling. The incidents are increasing. The potential for serious problems developing for kids because of gambling is real. The perplexing question is what should be done about it.

The old fashion approach, "make them stop," is a waste of time. If there is any ray of hope in affecting the gambling habits and desires of the younger group it will be through education. This is the tried and true method of reaching most humans.

The first response here from the educational profession is always aghast. "You want us to teach our kids how to gamble?" In a recent discussion with a University Curriculum Specialists, this exact conversation took place. But, when it was pointed out that their students already knew how to gamble; they just didn't know anything about gambling, the tone changed.

It's a fact there are few places anyone can go to receive non-bias information about gambling. Having a program in Junior High, High School, Junior College, and the Universities will go a long way in helping the youth deal with their gambling issues.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
ITS ABOUT GAMBLING
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
11/1/2013 12:39:33 PM

Position:
Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

Time to write new gambling laws.

It's a consensus that the current Florida gambling laws need revision. "They consist of a band-aid, patchwork, bailing wire, and chewing gum approach," said Florida Senate President Don Gaetz. Revision just won't get it done. It's time to start over.

For a long period of time, dating back to the 1800's, the politics of gambling set the tone of early legislation. As gambling grew the political favoritism system ran into trouble. Many of the chosen few started to step on each other's toes.

Today gambling has become universally accepted and the business of gambling has gotten so big the "good old boy" system of controls does not work. This outmoded structure has been exposed; and reforms are being demanded by the citizens.

The detractors of gambling, those calling for total abstinence, have also had to take a back seat. "It's not acceptable in today's society to present arguments based solely on religion or morals." I. Nelson Rose, Law Professor.

"The moral argument that gambling is a sin is to easily swept aside as impeding the personal freedom of others." Rev Tom Grey, National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

But why has all this happened?

It's money, plain and simple. The thing that gets peoples shorts in a knot doesn't have much to do with games or machines; it's about the money. Who's going to get the gamblers money?

The race tracks and Frontons only exist because of the gamblers. Now the gamblers have better choices for their risk taking enjoyment. How many people would go to a horse or a dog race just to watch them run around the track? Would anybody go to a Jai alia game for an evening out on the town just to see Burko play Santeenie in a best of seven series? When a person pays the \$2 admission fee at the track or fronton, it's for the privilege of wagering on the races or games. These businesses would disappear in a week if wagering on the outcome was not allowed.

If you ventured down to the local park and invited a few strangers to sit down with you and enjoy a game of Draw Poker; with the winner receiving a hardy handshake and cheers from the losing players; nobody is really going to care. Bring a roulette wheel to the park and spin it; anyone guessing the right number gets a pat on the head and a bank calendar; again, you'd hardly be noticed.

But bring a few people over for a \$2-4 game of 7-stud in the secret room in your garage, charge a fee to get in, and cut the pot for expenses, and there's a good chance everyone will need to lawyer up in no time.

By simple definition gambling is legal everywhere in Florida. That has been established by the Florida Lottery.

The confusion that has corrupted the gambling venue is the result of the law makers trying to have it both ways. Their position is; "gambling is illegal except for...."

The current legal system has determined certain kinds of gambling, in certain places, by certain people, will sometimes be allowed. When this conflicting philosophy is examined it is clear to see; "no rhyme and no reason."

You can bet on a horse race, but you can't play blackjack. You can play poker, but you can't play roulette. You can buy lottery tickets but you can't play a slot machine. Bingo is an accepted form of gambling, but betting on a football game is not.

It has also been put into law that certain citizens can gamble in certain places, playing specified games and activities, while other citizens cannot. At age 18 you can gamble in some games and activities, but in others you must wait until you reach your 21st birthday. Some people can play slot machines in South Florida, but not in central or north Florida. These are not laws about gambling; these are laws favoring the individual likes and dislikes of lawmakers and selected business people.

The fact that these discrepancies have been allowed is one source of the disdain for the current laws. When the law favors certain citizens over others, it's not unreasonable to expect disharmony. In this case both the proprietors of the gambling businesses and the gamblers are dissatisfied.

One part of gambling consists of exchanging money while settling things by chance. Put up or shut up. I bet I can, I bet you can't. I bet he will or I bet he won't. These are sometimes referred to as proposition bets. People have been making

these types of wagers to settle differences of opinion for centuries. Another common part of gambling involves the playing of games, using cards, wheels, and dice. Then there is the old favorite of betting on events. Sports, racing, skill games, and dozens of other activities, including the "blood sports."

Problems with all of these forms of wagering first surfaced when cheating was invented. This happened around the time the first bet was made several thousand years ago, and continues today. **Andrew Jackson, who later became president, shot and killed Charles Dickinson in a dispute over the results of a horse race. Dickinson accused Jackson of cheating.

In the 1800's a new technique for gambling began to emerge. The gambling entrepreneur's stepped forward. They soon became known as the "house." This system brought some organization to the gambling games and events. One of the first to do this was a man named John Davis. In 1822 he opened the first American gambling casino in New Orleans. "If you want to gamble come on over to my place. Let me run the games; I'll hold the money, officiate the bet, declare the winner, and I'll guarantee the payoff." All of this was done for a fee. The house has no concern about who wins or loses; they collect their fee either way.

In a further development of this system, it was found that by adjusting the rules of the games, the house could give itself a mathematical edge. Now the house began banking the games. The fees and mathematical edge made the business of gambling a very lucrative endeavor.

Now the entrepreneur's are happy for the few winners, and ecstatic about the many losers. The gambling business was forced to team up with the state government, and soon the gamblers were forced to participate within this system or face prosecution.

The protection system given by the gambling business to the gambler, guaranteeing the action for a fee, was now extended to the business of gambling by the government; for a fee. They guaranteed that the gamblers could only go to certain "approved" gambling dens.

It's easy to understand why existing gambling establishments do not support new gambling businesses. It's also easy to see why non gambling businesses are reluctant in supporting gambling activities. And it's not hard to grasp the political conflict of interest that has permeated the industries going after the recreational dollars.

The free enterprise system, the spirit if competition; and the citizen's right to the pursuit of happiness, often gets mugged when it comes to the gambling enterprise.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | TERRY TERRIL ITS ABOUT GAMBLING LAND O LAKES, FL 34638 | Comments submitted: 11/2/2013 12:39:38 PM |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Multiple (Internet Cafes or Adult Arcades) | Position: Neither For nor Against |

The Café's.

An off shoot of the internet gambling business is the very popular and fast developing "Internet Cafes," or "Sweepstakes Cafes." This industry has developed software which allows slot machine type games to be played on a computer.

The local and state governments are perplexed at this new innovative approach developed so the gamblers can play the games their legislators don't want them to play; except in certain places, run by certain people.

Confusion abounds as current law is unclear about what constitutes a legal slot machine. Generally the machines are the same. What makes one illegal has more to do with who owns it and where it's located than any mechanical properties. It's become very difficult to outlaw a machine, when your goal is to outlaw ownership and location. Technology now has the upper hand in this silly scuffle.

For many gamblers it remains perplexing as to why the government wants to outlaw games that people enjoy playing. It's clear that playing the machines is not the problem. It's who gets the money.

If Florida would regulate and tax slot machines, in a free market system, across the state, it is speculated they would

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | TERRY TERRIL ITS ABOUT GAMBLING LAND O LAKES, FL 34638 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 10:44:09 AM Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Multiple (Community Impacts) | |

FAMILY FRIENDLY BRAND

In the discussion of gambling in Florida the phrase “Family Friendly Brand” is often mentioned as an attribute of Florida that is recognized around the world. This phrase is referenced by people who are promoting family friendly as something tangible and available to all families who live in Florida and who come to visit Florida. This undefined family friendly thing that the state possesses may be no more than a broad sweeping generalization of a myth.

So what does Family Friendly mean?

This phrase is more than problematic. Just trying to define “a family” is no easy task in today’s modern society. Is Florida friendly to all families, or just some families? Does it give the same opportunities to poor families as it does the wealthy families? Do people who are a part of a family get priority over those who have no family? What act of friendliness can families who live in Florida, and families who come to visit Florida, expect from the state? People can be friendly to each other, but how a state can be friendly is yet to be explained.

Has there ever been a state that promoted the slogan “we’re not family friendly.”

Some pockets of thought have suggested that Florida has spent considerable time and money developing a “Family Friendly” atmosphere, whatever that may be. Most people think they know what family friendly means, but when asked to write it down on paper the task quickly becomes overwhelming.

In the gambling debate the contention is that Gambling activities are a destroyer of the family friendly reputation and they should not be allowed within the state or at least seriously restricted. The premise is used that an increase in gambling activities will seriously endanger or possibly put an end to family friendliness from the state. How this could happen has not been explained.

This argument is used in spite of the fact that Florida has been increasing its gambling footprint since the 1920’s and is still going strong. This is the same time frame that the “Family Friendly” brand was supposedly developed. It must be asked; how could that happen? Both things seem to have develop at the same time.

It is always interesting to investigate the methods for how these evaluations are measured. Here is one of many studies that contain some details about how family friendly was defined and used in this one small example.

In 2005, Andrew Schiller, PhD, a specialist in American demographics said: “despite Florida’s reputation as a vacation and retirement magnet, the state hasn’t necessarily garnered a reputation as a family friendly place to live.”

He identified ten top cities in Florida for families with children. Criteria used for his evaluation included: quality public schools, safety from crime, high proportion of other families with children living in the community, other adults with college degrees as neighbors, and home ownership. (aschiller@locationsinc.com)

The top ten cities are all located in areas that have had gambling facilities for some time. Not one city in the panhandle of Florida made the list; still most people who live in the panhandle would say their towns and cities, are the most family friendly in all of Florida. The west coast of Florida had one city make the list; Naples.

All of central Florida, outside of the Orlando area, had no cities, towns, or hamlets make the list.

The study did not mention in any of its criteria anything about gambling activities as a negative to family friendliness. But it’s easy to recognize that personal wealth and education does make a difference.

In this study Family Friendly Florida as is a very, very small part of the State.

Not only is “family friendly” difficult to define, it’s an unfair judgment of many communities. Family friendly as used in the gambling debate is really about turf protection, money, and restricting competition for business.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

TERRY TERRIL
ITS ABOUT GAMBLING
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted:
11/20/2013 10:57:55 AM

Position:
Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Community Impacts)

EXPANSION OF GAMBLING

“Expansion of gambling” is a phrase often used by the detractors of gambling, as they lobby to end or limit gambling games and activities in a state, a county, or other local areas. It’s often quoted as a goal they’re promoting and striving for; “we’re against any expansion of gambling.”

The problem in this debate is finding an agreeable definition of the phrase; “expansion of gambling.” Currently when the phrase, expansion of gambling, is put under the scrutiny of clear definition; the whole concept falls apart.

The elements of expansion of gambling include, but are not limited to, Space, Opportunity, and Frequency.

Space. If “no expansion” means no additional buildings can be used for gambling activities or the use of any additional space within an existing building, or the construction of any new buildings for gambling, then the concept of a law limiting the square footage used for gambling anywhere in the state would need to be passed by the legislature. This could never happen in a free society.

Opportunity. If “no expansion” means limiting the gambling games and events, then an approved list of current games and events would have to be agreed on and published. This list of activities and games would be decided by some state entity. A task attempted by a state that cannot define a legal horse race!

If 18 to 20 year old citizens win their Supreme Court case, and are allowed to play slot machines, would that be considered an expansion?

If a gambling facility has approval for 1,000 slot machines and wanted to add an additional 50 slot machines, would that constitute an expansion? Would the addition of a new poker game at an approved card room be an expansion?

Does “no expansion” mean no additional people would be allowed to gamble? Clearly this would be unconstitutional. And if more people wanted to gamble, then additional games and machines would have to be offered. And more than likely additional space would be required. This alone crushes the no expansion concept.

Would “no expansion” mean no additional money could be spent by the gamblers? This would be impossible on many levels.

When internet gambling comes, will individuals be restricted on the time they can spend on their personal devices gambling. Good luck on that legislation.

Frequency. Some gambling opportunities are currently regulated by months, weeks, days, and hours. Most racing is seasonal, some gambling is limited to certain days; many places are required to adhere to hours per day of operation. If one of the businesses added a day, or a couple of extra hours of operation, would that be an expansion?

If gambling games are allowed in the state, the restricting of those games seems very difficult to do in a fair and equitable way. Trying to create legislation to cover this concept would add to the existing legal disaster that currently permeates Florida gambling law.

If “no expansion of gambling” means no new or larger buildings, and no upgrading of current facilities; if it means current businesses are restricted to a predetermined list of games and hours of operation; then the tracks could not add races, offer special wagers, or create additional space. Gambling facilities could only have a predetermined number of gambling stations, card games, or table games. It might require gamblers to limit their spending, and only a set number of individuals would be allowed to gamble in the state each year. It’s easy to see why this concept will not work.

But maybe “no expansion” really means don’t let anybody else in on this gold mine I’m working. It’s plain to see the current owners of gambling operations want to increase their offerings, but not allow anyone else to open shop. The diehard detractors want all gambling to cease. The current political approach is to let certain businesses expand while limiting or closing others.

The sooner the “no expansion” of gambling idea is clearly defined, or eliminated from the conversation, the better for everyone.

The Florida Lottery expands its operations every week. They have new facilities selling tickets, they offer new games, and they are pushing hard for new customers every day. Expansion of the Lottery is not only welcome by the state government its encouraged.

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | TERRY TERRIL ITS ABOUT GAMBLING LAND O LAKES, FL 34638 | Comments submitted: 11/20/2013 11:02:41 AM Position: Neither For nor Against |
| Topic (from form, if different): | Multiple (Community Impacts) | |

LAS VEGAS STYLE GAMBLING

Here is another misused phrase that has no definable meaning. We often here people speaking against “Vegas” style gambling and “Vegas” type slot machines. What does this mean? Most often this phrase is used as a negative connotation referring to a bad type of gambling. This makes no sense.

Las Vegas has many types of legal gambling games and activities. Las Vegas was not the first city to allow legal gambling. None of their gambling games are specific only to Vegas. No special decks of cards are made just for Vegas use. No slot machines are designed only for Vegas. The Crap table layout and the roulette wheels are generally the same as those that are used around the world. Sports Books can be found all over Nevada. The game of Black Jack is the same as in other gambling towns. Other cities have Hotels with casinos, swimming pools, spas, golf courses, and eating joints. Other gambling towns are located in the arid climate of the dessert. Just what is meant by Vegas style gambling remains a mystery.

I know of people who have a unique style of playing certain games. Craps being the leader in this category. But a Vegas style of gambling is indefinable.

“Reno” style gambling would make more sense, but still not definable. Reno was the first and the biggest gambling center in Nevada in 1931 when gambling was legalized. At one time the Bank Club Casino in Reno was the largest in the World. The Mapes Hotel in Reno was the first high rise to combine a hotel and casino. Reno has all the same gambling games and activities as most other gambling towns in Nevada and they were first to have most of them. Still Reno style gambling is not a specific type of gambling.

How about the Gold Dust West Carson City Casino? It’s Carson Cities only true casino resort. The property includes an RV Park, meeting facilities, and a bowling center and arcade, along with Keno, table games, slots, video poker and a race and sports book. Why not Carson City style gambling? They include a RV park. Still there’s nothing specific about their gambling games and activities.

Maybe what people are really referring to is NEVADA style gambling and related activities.

The establishment of legalized gambling and lenient marriage and divorce proceedings in the 20th century is what transformed Nevada into a major tourist destination. That style is unique to Nevada which is the only state in the U.S. where prostitution is legal (prostitution is illegal in Clark County which contains Las Vegas), and getting married and divorced in the same week can happen.

The tourism industry remains Nevada's largest employer with mining continuing to be a substantial sector of the economy as Nevada is the fourth largest producer of gold in the world. And don’t forget that 85% of Nevada is owned by the Federal Government.

It’ can’t be the gambling activities that people are concerned about; Florida has had legal gambling since 1931. It can’t be the hotels, golf courses, swimming pools, or eating joints that are causing the Vegas style concern. It can’t be traffic. Florida doesn’t have a large gold mining industry, and the majority of the land is privately held. Tourism is number one in Florida also. Florida has over two thousand miles of shore line along the ocean, gulf, streams and rivers, and lakes.

This is way more popular than a hike in the sands of Nevada with triple digit heat.

So what’s left? Liberal marriage and divorce laws along with some prostitution.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: TERRY TERRIL
ITS ABOUT GAMBLING
LAND O LAKES, FL 34638

Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 12:33:59 PM

Position: Neither For nor Against

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Family and Social Impacts)

HONESTY AND GAMBLING

The gambling debate has given rise to a lot of misinformation about the gambling issues, along with some very cleverly calculated confusion. Soapy Smith, the legendary king of the con men in the gold rush days, would be envious. The general public is woefully undereducated about gambling. Most know how to play a few games but know very little about the industry as a whole. And those who are in a position to reap huge profits from the gamblers are in no hurry to inform the people how it all works. Their motto comes from a W.C. Fields character, Larsen E. Whipsnade: "Never give a sucker an even break or smarten up a chump."

In the past couple of years there have been several local votes in favor of having slot machines at horse tracks, dog tracks and the jai-alai frontons. The owners of these facilities are quick to point out that the citizens passed these referendums by large margins.

But in reality the vote was rigged. The gambling public definitely wants to play slots. It's the biggest gambling venue of all time. But on the ballot the only choice was play at the track or don't play at all.

The ballot should have given an honest choice to the gamblers: If you approve of the public being allowed to play slots, where do you think they should be able to play? At the track, the local mall, slot parlors in strip malls, recreation centers, retirement communities, or other places where people go for recreation? If that had happened, the votes might have turned out quite different. There is no question the people want to play, and they should be given the opportunity.

The tracks and frontons would be great venues for slot machines, but having an exclusive deal over other businesses and recreational facilities is suspect.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: ED GOLDSTEIN
KEY WEST, FL 33040

Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 3:24:09 PM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Economic Impacts)

I AM FOR:

Allowing new casinos will help Florida's economy and create new jobs and increased revenues for local economies
Florida casinos should be allowed to offer poker and other table games
Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: EDDIE GOLDSTEIN
KEY WEST, FL 33040

Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 11:21:03 AM

Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Economic Impacts)

Please back Internet poker in Florida. Not only will it be an economic windfall for the state, but this is a civil rights issue. Poker is a game of skill and how I choose to spend my hard-earned dollars should be my choice. If Floridians can spend as much money as they want on Lottery which requires no skill and has horrible odds for the player, why should a skill game like poker be banned on the internet?
Stop the hypocrisy and bring internet poker to Florida.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LARRY BROWN VENICE, FL 34285 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 5:13:44 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Economic Impacts)
1. Allowing new casinos will help Florida's economy and create new jobs and increased revenues for local economies
2. Florida casinos should be allowed to offer poker and other table games
3. Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compact with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker
No only is this a source of revenue, but also a source of entertainment and enjoyment for me and a significant portion of our citizens.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: LARRY BROWN SELF VENICE, FL 34285 Comments submitted: 11/14/2013 8:00:43 AM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Family and Social Impacts)
There are many retirees and semi-retirees like myself who enjoy online poker. It is a very convenient form of recreation and entertainment, especially for those with limited mobility. It is also a form of socializing via the online chat feature. I am limited to playing online poker with "play chips" instead of nickels and dimes, and it just is not the same. The day that "real" internet poker was shut down was a sad one for many of us. Florida gaming operators should be allowed to offer online poker and compete with other states who have licensed and regulated online poker.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NORMA MOLINA TAMPA, FL 33607 Comments submitted: 10/21/2013 10:15:44 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)
Please treat Greyhounds Humanely. I support greyhound decoupling and greyhound injury reporting.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: NORMA MOLINA TAMPA, FL 33607 Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 6:47:24 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Gambling and Crime)
Gaming attracts criminals and we don't need more negative influences in our area and/or our Beautiful home state.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: JANET SKINNER PALM HARBOR, FL 34683 Comments submitted: 10/29/2013 3:14:05 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming
Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Gambling and Crime)
I wholeheartedly agree with Sheriff Grady Judd's op-ed in the Ledger against the expansion of gambling in Florida. Keep Florida family friendly -- No Casinos!!!

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

JANET SKINNER
PALM HARBOR, FL 34683

Comments submitted:
10/30/2013 8:43:23 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Racinos and Pari-mutuels)

For Information Only

Please vote in favor of the “decoupling” bill on greyhound racing. The mandatory racing requirement forces greyhound tracks to offer live greyhound racing as a “loss leader” for other, more viable forms of gambling. This comes at a significant cost to both taxpayers and track operators, and conflicts with free market principles

I also ask that you support the bill that requires the reporting of greyhound injuries, which are currently being reported to the public in most states with active dog tracks, including Iowa, West Virginia, Texas and Arkansas.

This law will save greyhound lives. In the states where greyhound injury reporting laws have been approved, the number of greyhounds euthanized has significantly declined. For example, in Massachusetts the number of dogs euthanized declined by 43% in the first year after lawmakers passed an injury reporting bill. By the sixth year, the number of greyhounds euthanized had declined by 88%.

Greyhound injury reporting has had absolutely no fiscal impact in those states that have implemented it.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

CHARLES (CHUCK) KLUMP
JUST MYSELF
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33918

Comments submitted:
11/14/2013 3:59:45 PM

Position:

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

For Expansion of Gaming

Ladies and gentlemen:

It is incumbent upon your committee and the legislature to get the gaming situation/regulations set once and for all in order that all of the gaming in Florida is properly regulated and that we citizens can enjoy a pasttime that we like.

I have sent senator richter many e mails regarding this and have offered what i consider very valid suggestions to have casino resorts, casino, and all facets of gaming controlled properly for the benefit of all.

Concerning the anti-gaming people, it appears that they want to deny me my right to the pursuit of legal happiness I offer, I don't tell you what church to attend so don't tell me what i can do with money that i have earned. I spend less money at a Biloxi casino than i do at disneyworld, and i can assure you that when i leave the casino i may have won money or even if i lost, i had a great time. I don't remember Mickey Mouse handing out money to me when i left disneyworld. This state is large enough for everybody to enjoy what they enjoy without infringing on the rights of others. get it all under one gaming commission and make the laws realistic.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

CHARLES J. (CHUCK) KLUMP
MYSELF
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33918

Comments submitted:
11/16/2013 2:51:14 AM

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

Th topic here is: Total Gaming

Briefly, I want to make just one comment during this submission, and that comment is:

I wish to remind the members of this committee that one of the most important aspects of our country is freedom of religion, FREEDOM

F R O M RELIGION, AND SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. How does this apply to gaming?

Answer: Expansion of gaming is a STATE matter and not a subject for religious based organizations---let organized churches regulate their churches and the Florida legislature regulate state laws; AND NEITHER SHALL THE TWO TWAIN.

I do not deny church goers the right to attend their church of choice and I DON'T WANT THEM TO ATTEMPT TO DENY MY RIGHT TO THE PURSUIT OF MY HAPPINESS----to wit: casino gaming in casinos regulated by the State of Florida.

Do it right this time, place all gaming (except Florida lottery) under one Florida gaming commission (cabinet ranking, and regulate gaming to extract maximum benefit for all, The State and the people.

In closing, I wish to remind you that the oldest vices/devices known to man are: Organized Government; Organized Religion; prostitution; and gambling AND AT LEAST WITH THE LAST TWO ONE KNOWS WHAT HE/SHE IS RECEIVING FOR THE MONEY AND EFFORT EXPENDED.

With the latter two, they can be well-regulated by law.

Charles J. Klump

Chief Warrant Officer

U. S, Army (Retired)

Tel: (239) 839-2601 cell

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CHARLES (CHUCK) KLUMP MYSELF NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33918 | Comments submitted: 11/17/2013 4:14:28 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
|---|---|--|

This is another submission to you regarding the subject of gaming expansion in Florida:

Watching the committee meeting in Palm Beach County on the FL channel and comments about gambling I wish to add:

a. Gamers like drivers, medical patients, alcoholic drinkers, texters need to take responsibility for their own actions, to wit: overdosing on prescription meds, not drinking while driving, not drinking in excess to become a "drunk", not texting while driving.

b. But it is incumbent upon the committee and legislature not to deny those people (the vast majority) who do not abuse the aforementioned and who do want gaming casinos in Florida now.

Unfortunately in today's world we find that some citizens in this country do not take responsibility for their actions and laws have been established to control drunkenness (public) texting while driving and drug regulations. So the legislature may want to consider that if a person is a compulsive gambler and has been diagnosed as such that he/she should not be allowed to partake of casinos and gaming in Florida. How do you enforce that, I would look to Vegas, Mississippi and New Jersey for possible actions they have taken in this regard.

HOWEVER, TO DENY A VAST MAJORITY OF RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS THEIR RIGHT TO THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, GAMING IN A FLORIDA CASINO OR GAMING FACILITY IS NOT THE WAY TO STAMP OUT ANY GAMBLING ADDICTIONS BY OTHERS WHO ARE NOT SO RESPONSIBLE TO THEMSELVES OR TO THE STATE.

THE SUBJECT OF COMPULSIVE GAMING ADDICTION, ALCOHOLIC ADDICTION, TEXTING ADDICTION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADDICTION AND ANY OTHER ADDICTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY OTHER VENUES IN THE LEGISLATURE, MUCH LIKE YOU HAVE ADDRESSED IN THE PAST SMOKING ADDICTION.

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, I AM FOR GAMING, THERE WILL BE SOME ASPECTS OF GAMING SUCH AS GAMBLING ADDICTION, JUST AS THERE ARE ASPECTS TO SMOKING, MEDICINE TAKING, DRIVING, ETC ETC.

DONOT DENY ME THE RIGHT TO GAME IN A FLORIDA CASINO BECAUSE OF SOME OTHER INDIVIDUALS IRRESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF HIS OWN SELF.

THANK YOU

CHARLES J. KLUMP

Chief Warrant Officer, US Army (Retired)

Active Duty 1962 to 1982

PS: I believe I have earned the right to pursue happiness in my golden years

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

CHARLES (CHUCK) KLUMP
MYSELF
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33918

Comments submitted:
11/18/2013 3:08:47 AM

Position:
For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

I immensely enjoy viewing the gaming workshops on the Florida channel.

However, I have not heard any commentary regarding gaming boats to nowhere that are based in Florida. Perhaps I just missed the dialogue regarding this subject.

I would ask that the commission and the legislature delve into this subject as well. Gaming boats are enjoyable. I game on the Big M out of Fort Myers Beach.

For your information on the East Coast Gaming Boats only have to go out 3 miles before they open their casino for business. However, on the West Coast the boat must go out 9 miles.

So on the east coast a 15 minute boat ride is required before gaming commences and on the west coast it is an hour and 45 minutes.

I would hope that the legislature will rectify this inconsistency, and perhaps if gaming legislature allows casinos etc, that they will be allowed to perhaps operate at dockside without even having to ply the water of the Gulf or Atlantic.

If expanded gaming is allowed, gaming boats to nowhere should immediately be allowed to open their casinos at dockside or as soon as they leave port for their enjoyable ride on the waters adjacent to Florida.

Naturally, the legislature will have to establish gaming laws which cover this and tax accordingly. Thank you for listening.

I am looking forward to the legislative session in 2014

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| Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: | CHARLES J. (CHUCK) KLUMP MYSELF NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33918 | Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:16:43 AM Position: For Expansion of Gaming |
|--|--|--|

Hello again:

Always watching the FL Channel's gaming workshop meetings and I find some of the arguments against gaming amusing, being presented by misguided personages:

I AM FOR GAMING TAKING THE G O O D with B A D. Here are some analogies about the good and bad of modern day living, which I hope that the legislature notes:

Vehicles - Vehicles are great they transport us and goods all over the nation.

Anti - BAN VEHICLE: There are too many accidents and deaths associated with automobile driving, SO LET'S BAN ALL VEHICLES. That will save lives and insurance payments (money etc). BUT IT WILL PUT A LOT OF PEOPLE OF WORK BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE T HANDLE CLAIMS, REPAIRS ETC.

Air travel - Airplanes are great they transport us and goods all over the world.

Anti - BAN AIRPLANES: Airplanes have crashes and mishaps. ditto the above continuation

Boat travel - shipping: Boats and ships are great they transport us and goods all over the world.

Anti - BAN SHIPS: Boats sink, people die and goods are destroyed.

ALCOHOL DRINKING - Social drinking, a beer or two at a game a cocktail or two at a party is relaxing and acceptable and millions drink responsibly.

Anti - BAN ALCOHOL: There are a few out there who are addicted and can't take responsibility for their actions.

ORGANIZED RELIGIOUS ENTITIES: To whom that believe in organized religion---they provide an outlet for the rigors of modern life and provide a "social" outlet and provide charitable services.

Anti - BAN ALL CHURCHES AND ORGANIZED RELIGIOUS ENTITIES. Too many clergymen and women are messing around and having affairs and molesting boys and girls and some of their congregation. And that is harmful to one's psychic.

RESTAURANTS: They provide social outlets and wholesome food.

Anti - BAN ALL RESTAURANTS ESPECIALLY FAST FOODS: There foods are loaded with fat and people are becoming more obese because of them.

Don't blame the "EATER" WHO OVER INDULGES WITH A TRIPLE HAMBURGER, FRIES, MILKSHAKE, ETC WHICH HE/she chooses.

AND THIS LIST GOES ON AND ON AND ON AND ON, SO WHAT IS THE POINT??????

THE POINT IS THIS: THERE ARE GOOD AND BAD ASSOCIATED WITH ALMOST ALL OF OUR DAILY LIVING SUBJECTS, AND G A M I N G (AND THE L O T T E R Y) ALL HAVE G O O D AND B A D ASSOCIATED WITH THEM:

Jobs, enjoyment for responsible minded people.. Friendly atmosphere and many casino resorts are family friendly.

In fact, I find that the FAMILY THAT GAMBLES TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER because responsible parents who take their children to casino resorts (like the Beau Rivage, the Imperial Palace in Biloxi,

have a tendency to teach their kids about social behavior and the pluses and pitfalls of casino gaming.

I DOUBT VERY SERIOUSLY IF ANY LEGISLATOR WOULD WANT TO CANCEL OUT THE FLORIDA LOTTERY.... WHY??????

BECAUSE IT BRINGS IN VAST REVENUE, AND IT MATERIALLY HELPS THE VAST MAJORITY WITH FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

SO IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, CASINO RESORTS AND OTHER GAMING ENDEAVOR HAVE BENEFITS TO THE MAJORITY THAT VASTLY OVERRIDE THE PITFALLS OF THE FEW WHO ARE IRRESPONSIBLE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES.

CHARLES J. KLUMP, CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER, US ARMY RETIRED

A FLORIDIAN who has paid the price to enjoy his twilight years GAMING AND SOCIALIZING IN A FLORIDA CASINO.

REGULATE PROPERLY GAMING AND BY ALL MEANS ENCOMPASS ALL GAMING UNDER ONE GAMING COMMISSION AND 'L E T T H E G A M E S B E G I N'

Once legislation is passed to allow casino resort gaming and gaming at dockside on gaming boats to nowhere, dog and horse tracks to immediately allow those in business to operate gaming.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLES KLUMP
JUST MYSELF
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903
Comments submitted: 11/25/2013 3:52:27 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

This is, perhaps, my last e-mail regarding gaming and is kind of a wrap-up of all things to be considered and which you may or may not have considered, as well as total recommendations in order:

Number 1 - Establish a Florida Gaming Commission (a la Mississippi) with Cabinet ranking. Establish directives that this agency is responsible for.

Number 2 - Follow or emulate Mississippi's gaming laws, NOT ATLANTIC CITY'S.

Number 3 - Establish Gaming Districts (either six with ten counties in each; or 10 with 6 counties each; or 9 with 7 counties in each). Each district will be made up of counties which are adjacent to each other, e.g., Collier, Charlotte, Sarasota, Hardee, Manatee, Highlands, etc.

Within each district allow casino resorts to the level that the people want, e.g. 2 resort, 5 resorts, 10 resorts etc

Number 4 - renegotiate arrangement with Indian tribes to insure that all are treated equally, the State of Florida, The Indian tribes and the corporations who wish to build and operate casino resorts and casinos in Florida.

Number 5 - Allow casino type games at the Greyhound, Thoroughbred Jai Lai and Racinos in existence at the date of this enactment.

Number 6 - Allow casino boats to nowhere to operate at Dockside or as a minimum as soon as they are 1 mile off shore of either coast s (the NORTHERN GULF, WESTERN GULF OR ATLANTIC)

Number 7 - Establish a trust fund that all gaming revenue be deposited into and that trust be used for college level educational items., scholarships, athletics, etc etc

Number 8 - Tax the winnings realistically so Florida will get its fair share and the people benefit from those funds.

Number 9 - Insure that all casinos can have all the gaming games that casinos in Vegas, Atlantic city, other states and Mississippi enjoy, craps, roulette, all the card games, and Keno.

Number 10 - Allow adult arcades as they were in existence before, however, do not permit them to use casino games in their establishments nor be connected to the internet for out of state internet gaming. DO NOT LET THEM SELVES BE LABELED CASINOS BUT MUST USE THE NAME ADULT ARCADE.

Number 11 - do this now before i get too old to enjoy casinos in my home state. i'm 69 years old and am tired of taking my money to biloxi to partake in a endeavor i enjoy--to wit: Casino fun.

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: CHARLES KLUMP
MYSELF
NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33903
Comments submitted: 12/5/2013 2:42:49 PM
Position: For Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

I forgot one little thing in my last e mail and that is:

If casino resorts and casinos are permitted, then they should be directed to sell florida lottery tickets as well as the other games, fantasy five, lotto, etc, etc just as any retailer does. I would surmise that florida lottery sales would be very very good if they were directed to sell florida lottery tickets. This directive should apply to all gaming establishments, dog track, thoroughbred tracks, jai lai, racinos, etc

Name, organization (if any), and City, State, and ZipCode: BRUCE DURBIN
VENICE, FL 34293
Comments submitted: 11/19/2013 5:08:35 PM
Position: Against Expansion of Gaming

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Other)

it's over. greyhound racing needs to be shot, like so many of the poor dogs that made money for their owners. nobody wants to see it, it loses money and it has always been cruel to the greyhounds. end it now.

Name, organization (if any),
and City, State, and ZipCode:

BRUCE DURBIN
VENICE, FL 34293

Comments submitted:
11/26/2013 5:22:51 PM

Topic (from form, if different): Multiple (Community Impacts)

Position:
Against Expansion of Gaming

i'm all for freedom but really, how many more ways can we find to suck money out of the pockets of a lot of people that can't really afford it (even if they don't become 'addicted')? has the study been done that actually shows that well-off people contribute the largest percentage of proceeds from the lottery, dogs, horses, casinos or whatever? I doubt it. just say NO!