



Co-Chair Anderson and Co-Chair Hansen  
G3 Minnesota State Capitol  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 1540, Tabke: Residency pilot program established for certain racehorses, awards and grants required, money transferred, and money appropriated.

Dear Co-Chair Anderson, Co-Chair Hansen, and members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear HF1514, a bill to establish a thoroughbred racehorse residency pilot program in Minnesota. This thoughtfully created pilot program would stimulate the state's agricultural and equine industries by increasing payments to thoroughbred racehorse owners ensuring they are paid \$750 for each day a registered thoroughbred racehorse starts a race at the racetrack. Similar programs in other states, particularly Delaware and Virginia have proven to be successful in growing their state's horse industries. It will also support the repurposing of retired thoroughbreds, while investing significantly to support the education and mental health of stable workers.

Canterbury Park is a proud member of Minnesota's agricultural community. Unfortunately, as purses have declined in the last few years, some horse owners and horse breeders have moved to other states to race or have exited the business entirely. This pilot program would be a significant step in making Canterbury Park more competitive against other national racetracks.

While things have been difficult in recent years for the racing industry, there are many things that keep us optimistic about our future. We are counting down to the start of summer racing season which begins May 24, 2025. What we are most excited about are the horse trainers, horse breeders, veterinarians, jockeys, and their families who will return to Canterbury Park this spring. They are the people that this pilot program would support—their livelihoods depend on increased resources for the thoroughbred racing industry.

This bill demonstrates Minnesota's commitment to racing and the horse industry. The state's investment in thoroughbred racing, repurposing services for retired thoroughbreds will help incentivize the raising, and racing of thoroughbreds in Minnesota. The mental health and education support grants for stable workers will provide critical support to the individuals who are the backbones of the racing industry.

Thank you for considering this critical investment in the racing industry.

Sincerely,



Randy Sampson

CEO, Canterbury Park