



June 26, 2024

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor, State of Minnesota  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Walz,

We are writing to urge you to reconsider the appointments of Melanie Benjamin and Johnny Johnson to the Racing Commission.

We have very serious concerns about how these appointees will negatively affect the future of the horseracing industry in our state.

Minnesota only has two horse racing tracks. One of your appointees currently is a party defendant in a lawsuit from one of those tracks that he will be charged with regulating fairly. This is a clear conflict of interest, and it is inappropriate for an individual involved to be making regulatory decisions against an entity that has engaged in, or is currently involved in, legal action against them.

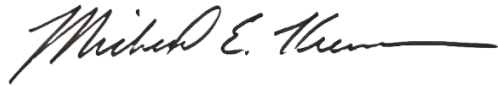
The entities these individuals represent have successfully lobbied the Legislature to pass bills directly against the best interests of horse racing tracks. Those entities consider the horse tracks to be a direct competitor and they should not be granted the authority to interfere with the horseracing industry. As commission members, they now will have the ability to overturn the decisions of previous Racing Commission members, and also are privy to confidential, proprietary business information about their competitors' operations.

There are serious questions about how these two commissioners will fulfill their obligations to support the state's horse racing industry amid legal proceedings and recent successful lobbying that directly harmed both of Minnesota's horse racing tracks.

Minnesota Racing Commission members have an obligation to act in the best interests of our state's track industry. We question whether individuals representing direct competitors would be able to fulfill this duty to the people of Minnesota.

Please reconsider your recent selections to the Minnesota Racing Commission so that we may provide the horse racing industry in Minnesota the support it deserves and uphold public confidence in the board.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael E. Kreun in black ink.

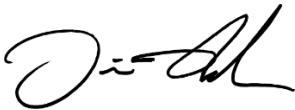
Michael Kreun  
Senator District 32

Handwritten signature of Nolan West in black ink.

Nolan West  
State Representative District 32A

Handwritten signature of Kristen Robbins in black ink.

Kristen Robbins  
State Representative District 37A

Handwritten signature of Jim Nash in black ink.

Jim Nash  
State Representative District 48A

Handwritten signature of John Koznick in black ink.

John Koznick  
State Representative District 57A