

WHY KENTUCKY'S HORSE INDUSTRY NEEDS SUPPORT

- Kentucky's \$4 billion horse industry is our state's signature industry and is responsible for 80,000 to 100,000 jobs and we need to work hard to protect what we have and grow the industry.
- To do that the industry must have increased revenues for purses to remain competitive and racing at all of our tracks to be successful.
- Increased purses help the entire industry—owners, breeders, jockeys, everyone directly and indirectly involved with racing. How?
 - Increased purses improve the quality and quantity of racing
 - Increased quality of racing improves the horses that are drawn here to race which increases attendance and wagering which means more money into the economy.
 - Increased quantity also improves the industry by increasing jobs related to racing, service expenditures related to racing like vet services and so on.
 - Indirect benefits are seen by increased spending by visitors to tracks at area hotels and restaurants and by increased spending by the horse industry participants in their local economy.
- When given a choice between a \$6,000 purse or a \$24,000 purse, which one would you choose? That is the reality that horse owners in Kentucky currently are facing when they decide where their horses will race.
- There is a direct correlation between the health of a state's racing program and the state's breeding program. Every state that has implemented casino-funded purses for their race programs has seen a positive growth in their breeding numbers.
- Kentucky's Standardbred industry has already experienced what increased purses can do to an industry. In the 1980s New Jersey opened the Meadowlands and lured Kentucky's Standardbred industry away. In 1986 there were 95 Standardbred stallions standing in Kentucky and they bred 2,270 mares. In 2004, those numbers decreased to 30 stallions and 680 mares. Why is this so important? Because when those horses leave our state they take jobs and revenues with them.
- The American Horse Council estimates the average care of a horse is \$4,510 annually. Care ranges from \$2,217 for recreation horses to \$8,438 for racing horses. So if you take Fayette County as an example, there are an estimated 12,676 horses in the county. Using that average care figure, that means \$57,168,760 annually is spent in the local economy just for the care of those horses.
- Non-race breeds benefit from gaming revenues as well. Funds will go to other programs to help those breeds grow their industry. Increased monies for shows, awards, and other funding mechanism that increase breeding, boarding and offers incentives to owners to relocate horses to Kentucky. In addition the 80,000 to 100,000 trail riders in the state of Kentucky will benefit as well from these monies to the non racing industry to improve trails and open new trails across the state.