



*Established 1906*

February 5, 2025

Chairman Larson, Members of the Committee;

My name is Jim Gartland, I am the Executive Director of the National Greyhound Association (NGA) in Abilene, KS. We are the official registry of all racing greyhounds in North America. We are a membership organization devoted to overseeing the recording of the breeding, whelping, registration and performance of all racing greyhounds on the continent. As greyhound experts and industry professionals, the NGA is devoted to the welfare and stewardship of the majestic greyhound breed.

On behalf of the National Greyhound Association membership and racing fans across the United States, we respectfully urge you to oppose SB2347 which, among other things, bans wagering on simulcast greyhound racing. Like many forms of gambling, wagering has moved to online platforms and in small business off track betting establishments. These wagers assist in offsetting general funds and governmental regulatory commissions as well as provides purse monies for horse racing, among other things. This bill would eliminate wagering on a single parimutuel activity that doesn't even occur within the state of North Dakota. Racing elsewhere in the country is heavily regulated by individual state commissions and operates with transparency to protect the racing animals and the integrity of the sport.

Senate Bill 2347 is obviously influenced by animal rights activists and their far right agendas. This bill would help to destroy the greyhound industry putting thousands of dedicated people out of work including greyhound farmers, trainers and kennel operators as well as track employees and associated businesses like veterinarians, feed and equipment suppliers and other entities. It would also bring a sad end to a breed of dog who's lineage can be traced back thousands of years.

Animal rights is a movement threatening the very heart of animal ownership and should be watched very carefully. Animal rights and their advocates believe the ideology that "there is no distinction between animals and humans." They view animal ownership as exploitation and slavery. The true goal of Animal Rights

Groups such as PETA, and Grey2K is to work for legislation and humane care "until all animals are no longer owned or utilized by human beings." The massive quantities of money raised by these groups is used primarily for salaries, fundraising and lobbying efforts with very little (usually about 2%) actually going to the animals themselves.

You have heard/will hear testimony today that is the same, tireless fabrications and rhetoric that have been espoused by these groups for over thirty years. These lies have been directed at our industry in particular because we are "the low hanging fruit" at the moment, but believe me, we are just the first in line of many to come including horse racing, rodeos, and any other animal related industries.

We ask that you take the time to look beyond the lies and innuendo and see the truth about greyhound racing and the tremendous strides this industry has made through the years. We ask for your support in defeating this bill and are available at any time to answer any questions you might have.

Jim Gartland

Executive Director, National Greyhound Association