



March 14, 2025

North Dakota House, House Committee on Judiciary and SB2384

On behalf of the National Greyhound Association membership and racing fans across the United States, we respectfully urge you to oppose SB2384 which, among other things, bans wagering on simulcast greyhound racing.

Like many forms of gambling, wagering moved to online platforms and in small business off track betting establishments. These wagers assist in offsetting general funds and governmental regulatory commissions.

This bill would eliminate wagering on a single parimutuel activity that doesn't occur within the state. Racing is heavily regulated by individual state commissions and operates with transparency to protect the racing animals racing and the integrity of the sport.

The NATIONAL GREYHOUND ASSOCIATION takes great pride in being stewards of the greyhound breed.

**INNOVATIVE IN HUMANE STEWARDSHIP.** In 2014, the National Greyhound Association (NGA) expanded its bylaws to include a humane welfare mandate to encompass **all animals** in the care of members, *regardless of breed or species*. Nationwide, The NGA has 33 inspectors and routinely inspects member farms. The NGA has a policy discouraging NGA registered greyhounds from being exported into counties without recognized welfare standards, structured around strong legislation. Any member found guilty of beating, overworking or mistreating a dog – or any animal – will face a lifetime ban from owning any greyhound, working in the industry and no member in good standing may do business with an expelled individual.

**MORE GENEROUS THAN HSUS STANDARDS OF CARE.** The condo style crates that the greyhounds call home are larger than the average crate found in the pet home. In fact, their size exceeds the minimum requirements deemed humane by the HSUS.

Track greyhounds have a staff averaging 4 individuals per kennel business who turn them out multiple times a day, and oversee their daily care, exercise and enrichment. These kennel businesses are inspected weekly by track officials and state boards to ensure that their care is exceptional. An under conditioned or malnourished greyhound will not be permitted to race and maybe impounded by the track veterinarian or steward.

**LEADERS IN PET ADOPTION.** The NGA maintain a 98.75% adoption rate for adoptable greyhounds post career & those that are not competitive at an early age. In fact, many adoption groups are experiencing waitlists of a year or more. Some greyhounds are also retained for breeding or kept as pets by their race owner.

The American Greyhound Council (AGC), a collaborative effort of the NGA, has contributed more than \$3.1 million directly to adoption efforts, and continues to contribute on a regular basis. About 8% of annual allocated donations continues to go to National adoption groups. This does not include track and individual owner contributions.

**NOT OVER-BREEDING. RIGHTSIZING.** Due to fewer national tracks to supply, the NGA acknowledges a 62% downsizing in individual puppies registered from 2010-2020.

NGA greyhounds spend, on average, 2-3 years racing, and then retire as couch potatoes in pre-screened homes. An NGA greyhound will live to be 12-14 years old.

Again, US greyhound specific adoption centers report waitlists of over 1 year for retiring greyhounds.

**MINIMAL RISK, ADVOCATING FOR SAFETY FIRST** Greyhound racing's injury risk is less than 1%. According to official reports from WV state track veterinarians obtained from the Racing Commission, the most common injuries are sprains, muscle strains, webbing splits and lacerations. 78% of injuries were minor and the canine athletes returned to race after rest and care. Any greyhound sustaining a career ending incident was seen medically by a licensed veterinarian and placed into homes as a companion pets.

**RENEWED INTEREST.** While on track attendance and onsite wagering has dropped, overall wagering in West Virginia has seen tremendous growth. Compared to 2019, wagering on WV racing increased from \$124.8 million to \$359 million, or a 187% increase. Much of this increase runs thru North Dakota ADWs and are taxed accordingly.

The NGA has seen a sharp increase in interest and membership diversity. In the first two months of 2024, the National Greyhound Association has had a 15% increase in membership applications and anticipate doubling membership overall for the year.

The NGA and the greyhounds respectfully asks you to vote no on SB2384.

Sincerely,

James Gartland  
National Greyhound Association