

Members of the committee.

My name is Rory S. Goree', and I have had the privilege of serving as a member and leader of the greyhound adoption community for many years, in addition to my role as an Arizona Racing Commissioner for over a decade. Today, I stand before you in strong support of Senate Bill 2384.

The reality is that greyhound racing is a thing of the past. This industry has been on a steady decline for years, and the tracks are no longer profitable. The market has shifted, and as people's interest in greyhound racing continues to dwindle, those who still want to place bets will simply shift their attention to horse racing. This transition is inevitable and reflects the changing landscape of the racing industry.

As a former Racing Commissioner, I've witnessed firsthand the struggles of greyhound racing in Arizona. More importantly, I've also seen the greyhound community's failure to always meet the highest standards of welfare and regulation. A few years ago, we learned the hard truth when members of the greyhound community were caught training with live bait, a practice that is both inhumane and illegal. This moment highlighted just how much oversight is needed, and frankly, it raised serious concerns about whether the greyhound industry is fully complying with the laws meant to protect these animals.

It's clear that greyhound racing no longer serves the best interests of these animals, and the concerns over their well-being persist. The practice of racing greyhounds is out of step with our values as a society, and it's time for us to embrace a future where we prioritize animal welfare, public health, and the shifting trends in sports betting.

By supporting SB 2384, we are making a bold statement that North Dakota is ready to move forward. We are supporting a future where we can invest in alternatives that are both economically viable and ethically sound. Greyhound adoption efforts, like those I've been involved with, will only continue to grow and flourish as more communities choose to focus on helping these dogs find loving homes instead of supporting an outdated and declining industry.

I urge you to support SB 2384. Let's be a part of the solution, not the problem. Thank you.