

March 16, 2025

Re: DO NOT PASS SB 2384

Dear Chairman, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is John Woodford, and I write to you in my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of GWG Group LLC ("GWG"), an Advanced Deposit Wagering ("ADW") entity licensed and regulated by the North Dakota Racing Commission.

GWG has operated under a direct North Dakota license for approximately eight years. During the total time GWG has wagered via North Dakota, we have contributed more than \$4,000,000 (4m) in regulatory taxes to the state, as well as charitable contributions in the amount of \$70,000, each year. In addition to wagering on horse racing, GWG customers wager on domestic and international Greyhound racing. This, in turn, generates taxable revenue to the State of North Dakota.

Should this bill be passed, I will be compelled to seek a license outside of North Dakota to ensure the successful continuation of our greyhound wagering business. Ultimately, this would result in GWG - the largest ADW by wagering volume and tax contributions in the state - migrating all activity and the resulting taxable revenues to a different jurisdiction.

Throughout this process, I have been somewhat mystified as to why the state of North Dakota is being targeted in these bills, given there is no greyhound racing run or operated in the state. It is made even more perplexing given GWG customers, who enjoy both domestic and international greyhound racing, will continue to wager on the product regardless of the outcome.

If the bill is passed, it seems to be the case the only loser will be the state, with fiscal contributions made by my company being redirected to a different regulatory framework.

I have had a career in racing and wagering for close to three decades. I also own greyhounds overseas and as an owner, have won several of the classics held in Ireland. Despite what out-of-state special interest groups are attempting to purport, as an industry veteran, wagering specialist, and owner of multiple greyhounds, I have no concerns regarding the industry's animal welfare practices. I can assure you I would not participate from a wagering operations or ownership standpoint, if I had any concerns that greyhound welfare was not paramount for these well-established racing operators.

You may contact me directly should you require any additional information or opinion.

Regards,



John Woodford
Chief Executive Officer
GWG Group LLC