



1240 Coral Way, Singer Island, FL 33404

Members of the N Dakota Legislature;

I am Michael Weiss, President of PariBet LLC, an Advanced Deposit Wagering Company licensed in North Dakota.

Racing is not just a Sport, Racing is a business that stretches from jockeys, to fans, veterinarians, farms and communities. Racing has a very strong impact on the economy, agriculture and so much more in the community in which it operates.

As a business licensed in your state, my company has paid to the State of North Dakota over 5 million in tax dollars and has contributed another 1.5 million dollars in support of horsemen and the racetrack. I do not understand how one group, without any ties or business in North Dakota, that does not care for Greyhound racing, can step into your State, submit a self-serving bill and manipulate the livelihoods of individuals and companies that have supported and contributed so much to your state's economy for decades. If this bill is passed as written, companies such as my own would be forced to either leave North Dakota or close. Either option will definitely send some of my employees to the unemployment line.

Also, I personally, have donated my time to reopen and manage the Fargo Racetrack (Horse Racing North Dakota), HRND. PariBet has created the "PRISE" PROGRAM (Paribet Racing Student Experience - see brochure below.) in which my wife and I train and mentor University Students and help them find jobs and careers at our own expense. One student, in particular, is your current racing manager, Hugh Drexler.

**My request today is for changes to SB #2347, which states it being illegal to wager on Greyhound racing.**

**Specifically:**

**Section 1. Amendment. section 53-06.2-01 of the North Dakota Century Code #15. Please leave as originally written:**

**15. Racing means live or simulcast horse racing under the certificate system or simulcast dog racing under the certificate system.**

**And**

**Section 5. Amendment. Section 53-06.2-07 #4. Please strike this from the Bill:**

**4. A licensee, including totalizator provider or service provider may not offer bets or wagers on dog races.**

I also must point out that PariBet currently has customers that reside internationally. There are countries in the world in which Greyhound racing is revered and highly regulated. The way the Bill is currently being proposed, my international customers would not be allowed to wager on a legal international jurisdiction.

Ireland, for example, has a huge Greyhound celebration which includes the Irish Greyhound Derby. The Derby is a highly regulated event and a huge festival! People come from all over the world for the event.

For example, a customer of ours, in Switzerland would like to wager on Irish greyhounds, or Australian Greyhounds, Countries where Greyhound racing is regulated and legal. We should not be telling our customers they are forbidden. They would move their business somewhere else. I would certainly lose customers, including the business they do with me in the horse industry worldwide.

My wife and I have enjoyed our years of being licensed in North Dakota. We support the State and Racing with our Tax and Charitable donations of not only monies, but our time.

Again, I respectfully ask that SB No 2347 not be passed as written.

Thank you,

Michael Weiss  
President, PariBet LLC  
(614) 496-8383



The students that saved the track.

## About PariBet

[www.pariwet.com](http://www.pariwet.com) Is a pari-mutuel ADW (advanced deposit wagering) service, providing legal and secure online account wagering for Horse and Greyhound racing with partner tracks from across the world. Pariwet LLC is licensed in the State of North Dakota, USA and is regulated by the North Dakota Racing Commission. All wagers placed through [pariwet.com](http://pariwet.com) are commingled with contracted and partnered host tracks pari-mutuel pools.

PariBet works to strengthen the racing industry through educational partnerships providing real world experience for students.

## Rillito Racetrack

Historic Rillito Racetrack, the birthplace of Quarter Horse Breeding and Racing, opened in 1943. It is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. The Rillito Park Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by area businessmen desiring to save the track along with the adjacent Jelks Stud Farm.

The Foundation hired PariBet's Michael Weiss to bring his expertise to this endeavor. They have been working together for the past five years. Successful continuance of racing and turning the Jelks Farm into a museum that will enhance the experiences of both citizens and visitors to Tucson is the Foundation's focus.

*"A big thank you to Mike Weiss of Rillito Park and PariBet and to Rillito Park Foundation for all they are doing to change the lives of students from The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences."*

-- Dr. Shane Burgess

Vice President and Charles-Sander Dean Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension  
The University of Arizona

## **P.R.I.S.E. Program**

PariBet Racing Industry Student Experience (P.R.I.S.E.) was created by Michael Weiss, President of PariBet and RTIP Alum, as an educational outreach program. PRISE represents a partnership between PariBet, the Rillito Park Foundation, the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and its RaceTrack Industry Program. Through this program, internship positions have been created at Rillito Park Racetrack in Tucson, Arizona. Students interested in working at a racetrack get hands on, in the trenches experience working in the racing office, media centers, mutuels, hospitality, admissions and management. Every aspect involving creating the racetrack experience for racing fans is handled by the interns in the PRISE program. Students receive payment during their internship as well as college credit toward their degree.

A new program, Equine Wellness, is being developed by the PRISE program. The Track Veterinarian and Stewards are working with College of Agriculture and Life Sciences students not involved through the RTIP. One goal is to educate trainers in equine nutrition and new training methods. Another is to develop a program which will be used to evaluate the soundness and health of the horses participating in the race meet. Ultimately, the goal is to enhance the health of the athletes and protect the integrity of the sport.

PRISE program interns have been highlighted in the Paulick Reports. A "must read" among racing industry members and fans. Bios can be found at [www.paulickreport.com/features/racing-industry-student-experience](http://www.paulickreport.com/features/racing-industry-student-experience). Also look for the "Where are They Now" features on P.R.I.S.E. participants.

PariBet, through its connections in the racing industry, has also been instrumental in helping graduating students find full time employment and undergrads find internships. Past students mentoring at PRISE have been placed in strong leadership positions in Breeding Farms, Tote Companies, The New York Jockey Club and top racetracks.

## **PariBet Gives Back!**

Other projects include working with the North Dakota Racing Commission to manage the North Dakota Horse Park. In 2012, live racing returned to Fargo, North Dakota, after a two-year absence. Michael Weiss, from PariBet, was instrumental in reopening the successful live meet, which has continued to run each July.

PariBet, to date, has given contributions exceeding \$5,000,000 and hundreds of man hours back to the industry. PariBet's contributions support live racing, the P.R.I.S.E. student program, Thoroughbred and

Quarter Horse Associations, student scholarships, and a partnership with World Breeders Cup Championships, Breeds funds and racing promotion funds as well as Disabled Jockeys.

## **University of Arizona**

### **College of Agriculture**

### **and Life Sciences**

The shining jewel of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at the University of Arizona is the Race Track Industry Program (RTIP). Established in 1970, the program educates the future leaders of the racetrack industry.

Many of the RTIP Alumni are current luminaries in the industry including two-time triple crown winning trainer, Bob Baffert. P.R.I.S.E students have proven to become the racing industry's future. They help to run Rillito Racetrack by participating in active roles such as: Assistant General Manager, placing judge, photo finish operator, TV graphics, racing office, handicappers, program development, social media, outriding and much more. This experience has prepared them to take active roles in moving racing into the future and exposing new and younger audiences to the sport.

