

t. 1 415 464 4882

f. 1 859 559 0536

[www.watchandwager.com](http://www.watchandwager.com)

700 Larkspur Landing Cir, Ste 199  
Larkspur, CA 94939



Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025

To: Members of the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee

Cc: North Dakota Racing Commission

**RE: Opposition to Draft Bills SB2347 and SB2384 – Written Testimony**

Dear Members of the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee

### **Purpose of letter**

The purpose of this letter (and the testimony provided) is to express our strong objection to Bills SB2347 and SB2384. Both the Bills suggest the potential banning of wagers placed on greyhound racing under our current advanced deposit wagering (ADW) licence with the NDRC. The rationale for this opposition is detailed below.

### **Executive Summary**

In summary we believe it would have a significant impact on the NDRC, the General Fund, the Horse Breeders Fund, the Promotional Fund and the General Operating Fund, plus the Charities that we support, and therefore the State of ND. This would mean that we will review our licensing strategy both domestically in the USA and internationally, so impacting our licensed presence in ND.

We consider this to be a serious situation, motivated by external operators, with no real interest in the ND economy, and Horseracing in the State. This particularly applies to the potential for the legalization of Historic Horse Racing Machines (HHR), which has only been framed to support large operators from outside of the State. We consider they are poor pieces of draft legislation drafted to benefit State operators.

Without talking for them we believe there is strong support for the opposition amongst all the major licensed ADW operators in the State, and all other interested parties, including our charitable partners and of course the future of horseracing and an agricultural way of life in the State of ND.

Hence our testimony, our strong objection and recommendation for a NO position on both Bills.

### **Company Overview**

A quick reminder of the credentials of WatchandWager.com. I am the President and have over 30 years industry experience. We are fully owned by Webis Holdings (UK). We run two main operations in the US – the principle being our ADW operations at [www.watchandwager.com](http://www.watchandwager.com). We have been licensed by the NDRC since inception in 2012. Below I highlight our key metrics since inception. These figures can and have been audited internally by KPMG. In addition, they are available via our Settlement Agent CHRIMS if required. So, they are factually correct and of course there are significant sums of money and contributions to the State of ND, now seriously under threat.

Handwritten initials, possibly "JC", in the bottom right corner of the page.

t. 1 415 464 4882

f. 1 859 559 0536

www.watchandwager.com

700 Larkspur Landing Cir, Ste 199  
Larkspur, CA 94939



### **Impact on Handle**

WAW has handled just above USD \$430million across all breed types under its current ADW Operator license through the NDRC. Trends have been stable per annum since inception.

### **Impact upon North Dakota – General Fund**

As a result, Payments of Betting Duty to ND State (the Four Funds listed above) have totaled over USD \$1million.

### **Impact upon Charities**

As a result, Payments to our contracted ND Charities have totaled over USD \$430, 000.

### **Impact overall**

These are significant sums of funds for the State of ND and would be at threat. In the avoidance of doubt, it would be highly likely that WAW would not seek a license renewal in ND for 2026, if these Bills were passed.

Whilst of course we do not know the figures for the other ADW operators currently licensed by the NDRC – I would assume that our figures stated below would multiply by many times, when the sums from all licensed operators are impacted from this change.

### **Motives for such changes**

I would opine that the motive behind both Bills is simply to allow Out of State operators to benefit from two very poor draft bills in regard of HHR. The wording is restrictive in nature and only of benefit of Out of State operators – so money going out of North Dakota.

### **Exacta Systems**

It is believed that the above-named supplier could be the principal supplier of the machines. It should be noted that at time of writing we do not believe that technology is pari-mutuel in nature. These raise significant legal concerns.

### **Other Options for WatchandWager**

Management is already considering other options should these Bills pass forward. We must protect our business, and the scenario would be that we would not apply for a license renewal as an ADW under the NDRC for 2026.

A small, handwritten signature or mark in the bottom right corner of the page.

t. 1 415 464 4882

f. 1 859 559 0536

[www.watchandwager.com](http://www.watchandwager.com)

700 Larkspur Landing Cir, Ste 199  
Larkspur, CA 94939

---

**watch**  **wager**

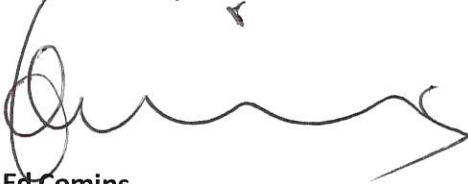
## Summary

In summary our view is these are badly thought-out Bills, drafted to take revenue out of the State. They will have a significant negative impact on levy (through the Funds) and charitable contributions. This would have a knock-on effect on the viability of Horseracing, jobs and a whole agricultural way of life in North Dakota.

We strongly oppose opposition to both Bills and a NO Vote.

Any questions, let me know, my details below.

Yours sincerely



Ed Comins

President

WatchandWager.com LLC

[www.webisholdingsplc.com](http://www.webisholdingsplc.com)

[www.watchandwager.com](http://www.watchandwager.com)

c: +1 925 336 4499