



## PHHA LEGISLATIVE ALERT – July 13, 2009

CALLING ALL PHHA MEMBERS, HORSEMEN,  
ANYONE IN EQUINE AGRI-BUSINESS AND  
ALL WHO CARE ABOUT PA RACING:  
**CONTACT YOUR STATE REP IMMEDIATELY.**

### THE ISSUE:

The pressure is on for State Representatives to balance Pennsylvania's budget. They are cutting wherever they can. Unfortunately, the state's Racing Fund is one of the areas in danger of being cut or possibly eliminated altogether. This would cause Pennsylvania to immediately become non-competitive with neighboring states and could lead to the collapse of Pennsylvania racing, its infrastructure and related businesses.

### THE SOLUTION:

Our representatives in government must be educated on the fact that the Pennsylvania racing industry is vital to our state's financial health. In fact, the legislation that created the Racing Fund has had a tremendous positive impact on attracting investment and creating jobs in a bad economy. If the Racing Fund is cut, it will create disastrous long-term harm for questionable short-term benefits.

### CALL TO ACTION:

Please e-mail AND place a phone call to your local representatives asking them NOT TO SUPPORT any cuts to the state Racing Fund. Explain to them that:

- **The Racing Fund created by Act 71 is succeeding as intended.** We have a successful, viable model thanks to Act 71 and the ongoing innovation, initiative and competitiveness it has spurred.
- **Pennsylvania has become the nation's top destination for harness racing professionals, offering what many feel is the highest quality racing product in the country.** (This is notable because Act 71 didn't offer PA any exceptional advantages compared to similar legislation in other states. We simply did a better job of leveraging the benefits.)
- **It creates good jobs in a bad economy** – not only in the agricultural sector (trainers, grooms, veterinarians, tack and feed shops, tractor and trailer dealers) but also at the venues (management, security guards, food and beverage, etc.) It will create even more jobs as our economy recovers.

- **It boosts our economy.** Investment comes not only from within our state, but also from other states across the nation and as far away as Europe and Australia. This is money we would never otherwise see, and it is being spent on expansion, real estate and agricultural supplies, human resources, etc.
- **It allowed for one new harness track to be built** (Harrah's Chester Casino & Racetrack), one to be expanded (Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs) and yet another to go into development (Valley View Downs) since the legislation took effect. The existing harness tracks in PA employ hundreds of people in racing alone.
- **The total economic impact of PA Racing is in the hundreds of millions of dollars,** and tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians owe their livelihoods to the sport directly or indirectly.
- **Act 71 was not a “bailout.”** Rather, it was intended to ease our competitive disadvantage with neighboring states that already had venues combining casino gaming with racing.
- **Act 71 was just beginning to show significant results** when the economy plunged into a recession. Even so, harness racing revenues dipped only slightly, proving that we are on the right track.
- **We have raised the profile of Pennsylvania harness racing by leaps and bounds** on the national scene. If Act 71 takes a hit, it will immediately turn back the clock ten years and drive all of these economic benefits we currently to neighboring states. In short, it will help make a bad economy worse.
- **Most importantly, NOW IS NOT THE TIME to do long-term and irreparable harm to a successful industry for the sake of short-term benefits** that would be meager at best to the average taxpayer.

## **WHAT TO DO:**

*If you are familiar your local State Representative:*

Don't wait. Call and e-mail today. Things happen quickly in Harrisburg and given the desperate mood, there is serious danger that decisions could be made in haste.

*Don't know your local Rep? Visit:*

[http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member\\_information/representatives\\_alpha.cfm](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/representatives_alpha.cfm) and enter your zip code in the box at the top right to locate your local rep and contact information.

--- PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL CONCERNED ---