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February 25, 2020

Via E-Mail: kgolden@pahousegop.com

The Honorable Martin T. Causer
Chairman, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
150 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202067
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2067
[c/o Kerry Golden, Executive Director]

RE: House Bill 1983: Continuation of Funding for Race Horse Medication Testing

Dear Chairman Causer:

We write on behalf of Downs Racing, L.P. ("Mohegan Sun Pocono") and Greenwood Racing, Inc. ("GRI"), the parent company of Bensalem Racing, Inc. and Keystone Turf Club, Inc., to address the importance of enacting House Bill 1983.

As you are likely aware, The Downs at Mohegan Sun Pocono offers live harness horse racing in Plains Township, Pennsylvania, and also operates off-track wagering facilities at The Downs at East Stroudsburg and The Downs at Lehigh Valley. GRI offers live thoroughbred horse racing at Parx Racing, and operates off-track wagering facilities in Oaks and South Philadelphia. Mohegan Sun Pocono and Parx Racing both have a rich tradition of horse racing in the Commonwealth, and have been leaders in advancing the best interests of Pennsylvania racing.

Mohegan Sun Pocono and GRI support the passage of HB 1983 in order to preserve and continue the existing funding streams for the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Laboratory (the "Equine Lab") and its important medication testing program for racehorses. There can be little dispute that the work of the Equine Lab is vital to ensuring the integrity of Pennsylvania horse racing, as well as the proper care for and health of equine athletes.

The current funding arrangements for the Equine Lab were developed approximately four years ago, and resulted from extensive discussions among the Commonwealth and all stakeholders in the racing industry. Mohegan Sun Pocono and GRI were active voices in those discussions. The consensus solution reached at that time remains the best approach, and should be maintained and its sunset eliminated.

Thank you and your colleagues for considering these comments on behalf of Mohegan Sun Pocono and Greenwood Racing. We welcome any questions that you or your colleagues may have related to HB 1983. Should you desire any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Mark S. Stewart

MSS/jls

cc: The Honorable Eddie Day Pashinski
Democratic Chair
House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee