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March 5, 2020

Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee
RE: Kansas House Bill 2671

Honorable Members,

I write to you today not only as the Vice Mayor of the City of Abilene, Kansas, but also as a fellow Kansan who understands the vital importance of retaining and expanding industry in rural areas of our great state. Abilene is the Greyhound Capital of the World and the greyhound industry contributes a great deal to the economies of Abilene, Dickinson County, and the State of Kansas as a whole. In a time where rural Kansas is facing intense financial strain due to the prolonged decline of agricultural markets, we have an opportunity in front of us to take advantage of and remain the epicenter of the greyhound racing industry.

The farmers that breed and/or train greyhounds not only live and work in rural areas of our state, they also play an integral role in keeping our small businesses afloat. They dine in family-owned restaurants, purchase groceries in hometown stores, utilize the skills and knowledge of local veterinarians, and obtain their feed and supplies from small town businesses. In addition, out-of-state greyhound kennel owners and staff currently visit Kansas for races such as the spring and fall national meets held at the National Greyhound Association's track in Abilene. While they are here, they stay at hotels, eat at restaurants, and make other necessary purchases that help drive sales tax revenues in small communities. These owners also spend on average between \$490.00 and \$5,200.00 in sales tax per purchase of each greyhound at auctions during these meets. With the impending shut down of multiple racing tracks in Florida as well as the Southland racing track in West Memphis, Arkansas, there is absolutely no reason why we should not be working diligently to bring these competitors and purveyors not only to Abilene, but to various other sites across the state as well.

I urge you all to pass HB2671 and pray that no restrictions are placed on greyhound racing.



Brandon L. Rein

Vice Mayor, City of Abilene, Kansas