

**Testimony of Michael Cianchette, First Tracks Investments, LLC**  
**SUPPORTING**  
**LD 2260 - An Act to Update the Laws Regarding the Sale of Pari-mutuel Pools for**  
**Simulcast Races**

Distinguished Members of the VLA Committee:

I apologize for not being able to present live testimony – I am out of the state due to pre-existing commitments. Thank you for reporting out and hearing this bill stemming from the Gambling Control Unit’s report to this Committee following the passage of the Advanced Deposit Wagering bill in the First Special Session. One of the major recommendations of that report focused on providing more opportunities for harness racing tracks to operate to generate the revenue necessary to keep this historic Maine sport alive and continue the growth we have seen over the past 3 years.

Current law allows First Tracks to operate a simulcasting facility – a retail location for wagering on horse racing – physically separate from the track in a location elsewhere in the same county. At the moment, we are operating from the historic Cumberland Fairgrounds. It is a wonderful track with a storied heritage, but a difficult location to operate a year-round entertainment location. Accordingly, the Agriculture Committee reported out the original bill that granted the current flexibility, the Legislature enacted it, and the Governor signed it.

LD 2260 simplifies this process by enabling us to permanently operate a simulcasting facility physically separate from the track with approval of the municipality and Commission, or at a location owned by Maine’s tribes. As the Committee knows, the legalization of sports wagering in Maine granted online exclusivity to the four tribes, while retail exclusivity was given to casinos, off-track betting parlors, and commercial racetracks. The tribal inclusion in this bill is important because things work better when people work together.

More broadly, under the sports wagering legislation, commercial tracks may legally operate multiple retail sports wagering facilities. LD 2260 would dovetail with this existing legislation and enable the full integration of sports wagering and horse betting in any venue. As we continue to work closely with Maine horsemen and women to build upon the momentum, it would be a poor outcome to have locations in Maine that **only** offer sports wagering and **exclude** Maine racing.

We understand that Maine’s three existing off-track betting locations may propose amending the bill to clarify that we may not operate in a municipality that already has an off-track betting location. We have no objection to adding that as a friendly amendment.

I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have and, depending on the timing, happy to make myself available at the work session.