

Good Afternoon Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Debbie Patterson, Im the current Executive Director for the Maine Harness Horsemen's Association and a resident of Sidney.

I'm here today to speak in favor of bill LD1992.

It's always said within the racing community that we are the best kept secret in Maine. It seems to be that the secret is getting out. Since the end of the pandemic our horse supply and participation has grown. We have also seen growth in our handle at the track and through simulcast efforts. LD1992 can help grow our industry even more. Through awareness that harness racing exists and that it exist in our rural state. The revenue received will help the training centers and breeding farms as well as the agricultural fairs and the Wabanaki Tribes of Maine.

The Maine Harness Horsemen's Association is willing and ready to help in any way we can to see this bill come to fruition. Thank you for your time today.