

Good Afternoon Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Aaron Hall.

It is a pleasure to represent the Maine harness racing community. On top of being a director of the Maine Harness Horseman's Association, I am also a driver, trainer, owner, and breeder as well as the son of a Penobscot tribal member. I am based out of our multi-generation family owned farm, just down the road in Gardiner. Which currently houses 18 horses.

Maine harness racing hasn't had this much positive growth and momentum in decades. Our handle, participation, and demographic has all improved over the past three seasons. With a new racetrack facility on the horizon, we are excited for all of the opportunities in front of us. These bills represent a tremendous opportunity for our industry, and would greatly expedite our continued growth. This bill would also drive economic growth for Maine agriculture. On a macro level it will help ensure our fairs, breeding farms, and training facilities, thrive for years to come. On the micro level it will provide stability for so many businesses, and tradespeople, that our horsemen and women do business with on a daily basis.

With my mother being Penobscot tribal members, and hoping someday I will be as well, along with my involvement with the MHHA, this is a particularly exciting position for me personally to be in. Myself, and the MHHA as a whole, is eager to work with all of the tribes. It is my goal that we continue to work together, and benefit together.

Thank you for your time.