

Support for the Amendment to “An Act to Support Nonprofit Organizations by Authorizing the Operation of Electronic Lucky Seven Devices and Similar Sealed Ticket Games.”

Good Morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. The Maine Standardbred Owners and Breeders Association (MSBOA) Board of Directors met and unanimously (7:0) agree that we support the Amendment to LD 1902.

This amendment will provide revenue that will be dedicated to not only our Breeders program through purses and incentives but all of Maine harness racing. There are many important shareholders who LD1902 will help; the agricultural fairs, milk pool, Veterans homes, even the municipalities where the machines will reside. There are many beneficiaries.

This will help attract more visitors to our racing facilities and boost local economies. The support of the public is imperative to the sustainability and future of Maine Harness Racing especially now that the convenience of IGaming has been introduced.

IGaming will generate revenue for the State of Maine and also the Tribes. But it will also be damning to the Harness racing industry and Agricultural fairs with out LD1902's Lucky Seven machines to help offset “offsite” betting.

Support of this Amendment will help preserve live racing in the State of Maine by keeping race purses stable, that in turn will make people want to keep horses which continues to support the agricultural economy of the State of Maine.

William Childs

President of Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association