

July 18, 2007

Governor Rod Blagojevich
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

On behalf of the **Unions** who represent workers in the Illinois horse racing industry and the **Industry** itself, we are writing to implore you to pass a gaming bill that allows electronic gaming at the state's horse racing facilities.

Over the course of the last two decades, the lottery and casinos have decimated the horse racing industry. We have lost thousands of jobs and we stand to lose thousands more. The state's horse racing tracks were once premier entertainment destinations not only in Illinois but nationwide; today that is no longer the case.

In order to survive, these facilities must become competitive in the entertainment industry. Electronic gaming is the only way to revive Illinois horse racing facilities as entertainment destinations.

Additionally, electronic gaming can also help to solve the state's current budget crisis. There are many areas in the FY 08 State Budget that are in desperate need of the estimated \$420 million revenue that electronic gaming positions at the state's horse racing tracks would immediately provide, not to mention the long term revenue stream for the future.

Our industry's very survival is at stake. In order to secure Illinois horse racing's future and to assist in meeting the financial obligations to the taxpayers, we strongly urge the General Assembly and the Governor to pass responsible gaming legislation that includes electronic gaming positions at the state's horse racing facilities.

Thank you for your consideration in this vital issue.

Sincerely,

John T. Coli
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Tom Balanoff
Service Employees International

Tim Foley
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Tom Villanova
Chicago Building Trades

Ron Powell
United Food and Commercial Workers

Ken Boyd
United Food and Commercial Workers

Ira Alper
Treasurers & Ticket Sellers Union

Michael Carrigan & Tim Drea
Illinois AFLCIO

Dennis Gannon
Chicago Federation of Labor

Duke Johnston
Maywood Park

Timothy Carey
Hawthorne Race Course

John Johnston
Balmoral Park

Brian Zander
Fairmont Park

Kevin McNatt
Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees

Shane Huwer
Carpenters District Council of Greater St. Louis

Dan Meadows
Laborers International Union

Randy Eastwood
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

William Hayes
Plumbers & Pipefitters