

*Comments received by email on Horseracing proposal - all comments cut off at 8:01 am 6/29/2020*

## Public Comment on Horseracing (sent by email 6/29/2020)

Good evening

My name is Austin Schlosser and I live in Shepherd, MT. I ask that you and fellow legislators continue on and draft a bill to help the Historical Horse Racing passed. I would love to see horse racing active once again. With this bill it would get horse racing that close to being back.

Thank you for your time

Austin Schlosser

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Please support historical horse racing in Montana.

Denise Linford

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Email to plead for the historic and important sport of horse racing for the state of Montana.

Wendy Bekkedahl

Laurel MT

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Please support the historical horse racing bill

Scott Powell

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Hi I live in Huntley MT my name is Jeremy unruh and I support moving the Proposal to bill drafting. Thank you

Jeremy Unruh

2531 rocky cliff trail

Huntley MT 59037

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Please, we need your support in moving the Historical Horse Racing proposal to bill drafting. Horse racing has been a big impact on the economy in all areas. We need to band together to bring this back to Billings. Thank you,

Memory McCracken

Great Falls, Mt.

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On behalf of Montana's horse racing fans, my family especially, I urge the committee to support moving the proposal by the Montana Board of Horse Racing to bill drafting. Thank you for your consideration of this historical effort.

Sincerely, Jennifer Bryan and family

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Please move the Historical Horse Racing proposal to bill drafting. Thank you for your help! Jill Ouren

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I support historical horse racing in our city of Billings.....please lend your support for the return of horse racing.....thank you....Kevin Hofferber

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My name is Sarah Kortum and I am horse racing...I breed thoroughbreds for racing and my family has been involved in this industry for the better part of 100 years, we are Montana!! I am originally from Ekalaka and grew up all over Montana...we raced in Billings every summer. Please help our industry!!! Thank you for your

time and support Kindest Regard Sarah Kortum Bozeman MT

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Keep pushing the bill to drafting! As a Idahoan, Montana Racing runs deep to many horsemen all over the west.  
Great revenue boosts all over the state  
Nothing like Great Montana Racing!  
God bless  
Carter Smith

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As a 59-year-old resident of the state of Montana I am writing to you to state my strong support for historical horse racing to continue in the state of Montana. Not only do I come from a horse background but I had grandparents involved heavily in the horse racing industry in Montana, I myself worked for several years on the race track in Great Falls and Billings Montana. I worked as a groom, a camera operator, the betting windows and owned horses. It saddens me to think such an important part of what makes Montana great may be lost forever. I respectfully request as a tax paying member of the state to support historical horse racing to continue in the state of Montana and ask the Committee to support moving the proposal to bill drafting. Thank you,  
Candi Brown

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I am writing in regards to the proposal by the M.B.O.H.R Historical Horse Racing.

As a Montana state resident, I am 100%, in support of the proposal. My family and I have been in the Horse Racing industry since the 1960's. We have been involved in all aspects of the sport.

I see a huge opportunity not only for the sport of horse racing, but for the State of Montana as well. I am currently running horses in the state of Wyoming, and the revenue from historical racing is unbelievable.

Historical racing has been an asset to the state's economic impact, not only does the state receive a percentage from the gambling revenue, they also receive money from people who have personal interest in the sport. For example, we will be running horses in Wyoming until October. We have 12 horses there, during that time, we will need agriculture and personnel supplies. When our owners come from Montana to watch their horses run they will need gas, motel rooms, and restaurants. We are only one out of hundreds of horsemen that will be running horses mainly because of the money that historical racing has brought to the horsemen.

Personally I would rather stay home in my state and run horses.

Cindy Williams

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Please, the grandstands are owned by the citizens of Yellowstone County. The County Commissioners I spoke with were condescending and dismissive when I asked why we could not have a vote on how to decide the fate of our iconic grandstands. Instead, just 3 people get to decide to tear it down. It is obvious that ridding themselves of the grandstands is their way to never have to worry about horse racing ever again. There are so many different events that used to be held there- they quit using it and actually told me that 'it never gets used' as a reason to destroy it. It only needs a few million in repairs, compared to \$80 million they want to spend in these trying times. They haven't even bothered to have the 6,000 seat facility appraised before demolition. How can they do this?

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2nd Comment sent in from same person:

To whom it may concern- The three individuals of the Yellowstone County commission have unilaterally decided to destroy our grandstands without considering the wishes of the taxpayers that actually own the facility. I spoke with two of the three to inquire why we couldn't have a fair vote to decide it's fate. Their pat reply was identical: "If we had a vote every time something needs to be done, we would never get anything done". In other words, we do what we want, when we want. This is a 6,000 seat venue that will cost tens of millions of dollars to replace, if the taxpayers even decide to fund replacement . . . we could actually end up with NOTHING. The grandstands, in their current condition, only need a few million in repairs to make them safe and useable. I asked them if they even bothered to have an appraisal done, to determine the value of what they intend to destroy. Their answer was NO! How can just three people have the authority to destroy a facility that has to be valued in the millions of dollars? It is unconscionable to not involve the owners (taxpayers). Please help us move forward with our voices being heard through the ballot box- it's only fair.

Thank You

Rick Tweden Billings, Mt

I am writing to you to express my support for the Montana Board of Horse Racing's Historical Racing Proposal and to ask the Economic Affairs Interim Committee to move he Proposal to drafting. Thanks for your support!  
Debbie Phillips Whitewater, Montana

My family has been involved in horse racing in Montana since the early 1900's.please help save racing in Montana.

Dan Ragen

Please keep the fairgrounds and all things proposed for horse racing and other events Thank you  
Nina phillips

I am absolutely against demolition of our grandstands and in favor of horse racing. Gregory Lucas

I support historical Horse Racing in Billings Mt. and all outdoor sporting events. Thank You - foxden2018

I would like to see horse racing at metro park... I am against the removal of the grand stands .... thank you  
Robert Goodson  
Laurel Montana

Please take into consideration keeping horse racing alive in MT. It is very successful in WY and can be in MT also!  
Jodi Heard

It has come to my attention that you are giving consideration to demolishing the historic grandstand at Metro Park. I hope you will get the voice of the citizens and give reconsideration as so many wonderful things have happened at that grandstand at that arena at that race track. I think there are ways that this could be turned into and gentrification of that facility as opposed to just demolishing it.

Mitzi Gligorea

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Hello my name is Gerald big hair...I'm from CrowAgency, Mt...I have been involved in horse racing since 1988...I was there in 2011 when Yellowstone downs last ran...since then i have traveled extensively out of state to continue racing our horses ...currently am running in Oklahoma...it would be such a big help if these machines where approved...I have seen first hand the benefits if these machines in Arkansas(Oaklawn Park) and most recently installed in Wyoming...not only for breeders and owners ...but also the overall benefits to the local merchants...and ag producers in there respective states...and I really would love to go home and race in my home state and breed Montana Breds agian...Thank you for your time...and God Bless...  
Gerald Big Hair..

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I would like to encourage this committee to vote to keep the current Grand stands as a historical site. There are so few outdoor venues anymore and this has been an excellent one. We need to keep our history alive and enjoy these Great Outdoors that we are so fortunate to have. And I would love to see horse racing return to Billings  
Connie Bouslaugh

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Please move supporting bill to drafting 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸  
John Crazybull

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*Please ask the Committee to support moving the proposal to bill drafting. Karlene Lindquist*

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Please support moving the proposal of the Montana Board of Horse Racing's Historical Horse Racing to bill drafting. Let our voices be heard! [Have a groovy day!!](#)  
[Stephanni Reynolds](#)  
[WCI Bookkeeping, LLC](#)

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I am writing that I SUPPORT THE HISTORIC HORSE RACING BILL. Please pass this on to the legislators. Thank you  
Roberta Mee  
Life long Montana resident

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I support Historical Horse Racing. Don't erase our History  
Robin B

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