



RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR WOLF'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

To my fellow horsemen,

February 8, 2022

This morning, Governor Wolf presented his annual budget. As in years past, it included a proposal which would decimate the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development Trust Fund. If enacted, this would effectively end racing and breeding across the Commonwealth.

In suggesting the transfer of approximately \$100 million from the Trust Fund (monies which, by law, are NOT State dollars), to be re-purposed for Nellie Bly scholarships, the Governor is again creating a false binary choice: education or horse racing, pick one.

We firmly support higher education. However, we do not support solving one problem by creating another. It makes no sense to try to rectify the challenges of college tuition by taking away the livelihoods of tens of thousands of hard-working Pennsylvanians whose income is derived from our thriving horse racing and breeding industries.

Obviously, there is reason to be concerned. But let me reassure you – the Governor has made this proposal each of the past two years. It has had very little legislative support, even from the Governor's own party. I'm fully confident that this remains true today.

I say this because I meet regularly with members of both the Senate and the Assembly, from both parties, to discuss the many thousands of jobs our industry creates as well as the significant statewide economic impact we generate. Of course, both myself and other representatives of the PA HBPA will continue to speak with our lawmakers.

Finally, the Act establishing our Racehorse Development Trust Fund was brilliantly conceived because it designated casino slot machine profits as the Trust Fund's primary funding mechanism. Therefore, despite the false claims of some, our Trust Fund is neither a "subsidy," nor a "handout." It is simply our share of the revenues created by the passage of casino gaming in the Commonwealth.

I'm confident that our Trust Fund will remain intact with little or no impact on purses.

Thank you, and please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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