



Thomas J. Rooney
President & CEO

September 7, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and McCarthy:

We are a diverse group of stakeholders—including breeders, owners, trainers, and other horsemen from across the country—who are deeply committed to the long-term future of American Thoroughbred racing. Thank you for your support for our industry which employs tens of thousands of workers in your states. We especially want to thank you for the strong bipartisan support in passing the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) of 2020.

Before the recent implementation of the law our industry faced imposing challenges which needed to be addressed. Horse breakdowns, track safety issues, and federal indictments of trainers and veterinarians were becoming too prevalent in the public's association of our sport.

Thankfully, the new HISA Authority, led by CEO Lisa Lazarus, and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)—with bipartisan support from commissioners—are making substantial progress in making our sport safer and more honest. The Authority has worked diligently with its state racing commission partners and has now reached cooperative agreements with the lion's share of states where Thoroughbred racing is conducted. HISA's July 1, 2022 implementation date launched a new FTC-approved racetrack safety program which has already improved safety for our human and equine athletes. Since implementation, tens of thousands of "covered persons" have registered with HISA, a strong early showing of compliance.

Following a public comment period, the Authority also recently submitted to the FTC, draft rules for the Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) program, expected to begin on January 1, 2023. To help run this vital program, the Authority has partnered with the renowned Drug Free Sport International, which works with a number of professional sports leagues.

We are confident the ADMC program will reduce instances of horse doping which—while uncommon—have jeopardized the safety of horses and jockeys, and the integrity of the sport.

Unfortunately, some in our industry have fought this law since its inception and are now leading unnecessary and expensive legal challenges—the costs of which will be passed on to horsemen and other participants. Thankfully, two federal district court judges have rejected these challenges and upheld the constitutionality of HISA, which are now on appeal in the Fifth and Sixth Circuits. We are confident both lower court opinions will be upheld.

Thanks to your bipartisan work to pass HISA, the Authority and the FTC are now advancing the goal we all share: growing our amazing sport with uniform rules and enforcement that make racing safer and fairer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Rooney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "R".

Thomas J. Rooney
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Thoroughbred Racing Association

Cc: The Federal Trade Commission

Attachment: Signatory Page

Other Signatories:

Racetracks:

1/ST RACING

- Golden Gate Fields (CA)
- Gulfstream Park (FL)
- Laurel Park (MD)
- Pimlico Race Course (MD)
- Santa Anita Park (CA)

Churchill Downs, Inc.

- Churchill Downs Racetrack (KY)
- Fair Grounds (LA)
- Presque Isle Downs (PA)
- Turfway Park (KY)

Colonial Downs (VA)

Del Mar Thoroughbred Club (CA)

Hawthorne Race Course (IL)

Keeneland Association (KY)

Monmouth Park (NJ)

Monmouth at Meadowlands (NJ)

New York Racing Association, Inc.

- Aqueduct (NY)
- Belmont Park (NY)
- Saratoga Race Course (NY)

Oaklawn Park (AR)

Parx (PA)

Other Organizations:

Breeders' Cup Limited (KY)

FanDuel/TVG (CA)

National Thoroughbred Racing Association (DC, KY)

The Jockey Club (KY, NY)

Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (KY)

Individuals:

Joseph Appelbaum (President, Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association)

Dr. Rick M. Arthur, VMD (former Equine Medical Director, California Horse Racing Board)

Jerry Bailey (Hall of Fame jockey)

Dr. Jeffrey Berk, VMD, MRCVS (International Thoroughbred Sales Consultant)

Dennis Drazin (Chairman & CEO, Monmouth Park; President, New Jersey Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association; former Chairman, New Jersey Racing Commission)

Gary Fenton (Chairman, Thoroughbred Owners of California)

Chris McCarron (Hall of Fame jockey)

Shug McGaughey (Hall of Fame trainer)

Todd Pletcher (Hall of Fame trainer)

Judy Wagner (former Commissioner, Louisiana State Racing Commission)