

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM NTRA

Dear Supporters,

This 2014 NTRA Legislative Action Campaign Annual Report summarizes the work of the NTRA's federal legislative team and also provides a recap of the second session of the 113th Congress.

Additional features of the Annual Report include:

- List of 2014 contributors
 Photos from NTRA-attended events
- Contributor location map
 Fundraising videos
- What contributors are saying Contributor/membership benefits summary

We encourage you to provide this report to other industry members who share your interest in and passion for Thoroughbred racing and breeding.

The NTRA is pleased that over 750 individuals, farms and racing partnerships participated in either the ¼% Check-off program, Foal program or the Horseplayers' Coalition in 2014. This broad support enabled the NTRA's federal legislative team to represent a wide spectrum of horse industry groups on Capitol Hill in 2014. We look forward to serving in this role again in 2015.

With Appreciation,

Bacigalupo

Joe Bacigalupo
Director of Government Relations & Membership Development

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NTRA MISSION STATEMENT

The NTRA is a broad-based coalition of horseplayers, racetrack operators, owners, breeders, trainers and affiliated associations committed to increasing the welfare, integrity and popularity of Thoroughbred racing through consensus-based leadership, safety and integrity initiatives, legislative advocacy, corporate partner development and fan engagement.

2014 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The second session of the 113th Congress in 2014 was conducted on a shorter schedule than the first session in 2013, as the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate worked 26 and 20 fewer days, respectively. This reduced schedule was prompted by the tremendous pressure brought on by the midterm elections.

Midterm election results were strong for the Republican Party as it gained control of the Senate and added to its majority in the House. The result is a divided federal government for the remaining two years of President Obama's last term. How this division will ultimately impact legislative production is uncertain.

A key development came during the Lame Duck session which followed the midterm election with passage of H.R. 5771, The Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014. This bill passed both the House and Senate in December and retroactively renewed or increased investment incentives for all of 2014 that had expired at the end of 2013.

The NTRA was instrumental in drawing attention to yet another tax issue for the industry last year – horseplayer taxation. Specifically, the NTRA led an industry wide effort to ease the burden of tax reporting and withholding on racing's customers.

Other developments from the second session of the 113th Congress may impact Thoroughbred racing and breeding, including President Obama's executive actions in November granting protection from deportation to millions of undocumented immigrants and continued efforts to expand online gambling to include forms of gaming other than horse racing.

Below is a summary of current federal legislative issues which may have a material effect on Thoroughbred racing and breeding. As the lead advocates for Thoroughbred racing in Congress, the NTRA monitors these and other bills on a daily basis. With the American Horse Council, the NTRA also educates members of Congress regarding key areas affecting the equine industry as a whole, including agriculture economics and immigration.

Taxes

In a year marked by Congressional stalemates, the post-election Lame Duck session proved the most fruitful for the horse racing industry.

On December 16, a provision that retroactively extended three-year tax depreciation for all racehorses was passed by the United States Senate as part of H.R. 5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 5771 earlier that month to extend retroactively through the end of 2014 numerous provisions that expired or were reduced at the end of 2013.

With the support of Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), the three-year depreciation schedule originally passed into law as part of the 2008 Farm Bill, giving the provision a five-year life span. In anticipation of the bill's sunset, Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) in 2013 introduced the provision in a standalone bill, the Race Horse Cost Recovery Act, which became part of H.R. 5771.

"The renewal of three-year tax depreciation for racehorses indicates that lawmakers understand the contributions our industry makes to job creation and the country's overall economic health," said Alex Waldrop, NTRA President and CEO. "We are especially grateful to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Rep. Andy Barr for their leadership and support of this provision, which is so important to horse owners and breeders."

The provision allows taxpayers to depreciate racehorses 24 months of age and younger when purchased and placed into service on a three-year schedule as opposed to a seven-year schedule. The accelerated schedule better reflects the length of a typical racehorse's career and is more equitable for owners.

H.R 5771 also retroactively extends two other provisions that spur investment in racehorses:

"Bonus depreciation" permits taxpayers to depreciate in the first year 50 percent of qualified new depreciable property purchased and placed into service. Yearlings that an owner purchases and puts into a training program are one example of eligible property.

The "Section 179 expense allowance" remains set at \$500,000, with a \$2 million threshold for qualified new or used property purchased and placed in service. Total purchases of qualified property that exceed \$2 million reduce the taxpayer's expense allowance dollar for dollar. This provision applies to numerous businesses and activities within the Thoroughbred industry, including broodmare purchases; mares are eligible as used property because of their prior use as a racehorse or broodmare.

Tax reform that would have reduced the capital gains holding period for horses from two years to one and given the industry greater parity with other investments did not pass in 2014. The Equine Tax Parity Act, introduced in March 2013, received no further action in the 113th Congress but remains a priority for the NTRA in the 114th Congress.

IRS Reporting and Withholding Thresholds

In 2014, 17 members of Congress joined in supporting another key initiative of the NTRA, a request that the IRS clarify its definition of the "cost of a wager" in determining whether a winning horseplayer is subject to IRS reporting and withholding.

Senior members of the Department of Treasury subsequently met with the NTRA and other industry participants to learn more about the withholding issue. Also in attendance was Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY), who has been instrumental in building support for modernizing current withholding rules to better and more fairly represent today's wagering menu.

Treasury Department officials indicated that action may be forthcoming as part of a review of IRS Form W2-G, used by taxpayers to report gambling winnings and any federal income tax withheld on those winnings. In March 2015, the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Public Hearing (Notice) that opens the door to the possible addition of pari-mutuel gambling winnings to updated reporting and withholding requirements being developed for bingo, keno and slot machine players. NTRA continues to work with the Treasury Department as well as supporters on Capitol Hill to change the definition of a bet or a wager.

Horseplayers wagering on pari-mutuel races currently are subject to reporting of winnings of \$600 or more and automatic federal tax withholding on pari-mutuel winnings of \$5,000 or more at odds of at least 300-1. The "cost of a wager," now defined simply as the single winning bet the player makes (versus the total investment made), is at the center of these calculations, which frequently trigger reporting and/or withholding for horseplayers. Withholding reduces players' liquidity during handicapping and adversely impacts pari-mutuel handle and purses. Withholding levels for pari-mutuel winnings were last changed (from \$1,000 to \$5,000) in 1992. Reporting levels have not changed since the mid-1970s.

This matter remains under review by Treasury officials. Visit the NTRA's website, NTRA.com, for updates.

Farm Bill

Congress passed a Farm Bill in 2014 whose provisions included expanded crop insurance in lieu of direct payment programs; restored and made permanent livestock disaster assistance (retroactive to 2011), which applies to horses, among other forms of livestock; consolidated conservation programs to improve local accountability and address regional priorities; authorized \$880 million in funding for on-farm energy programs; and authorized \$100 million for the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program.

Online Gambling

The question of whether to provide a federal tax and regulatory structure for online gambling (other than pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing, which is already regulated under the federal Interstate Horseracing Act), remained unresolved at the end of 2014. Bills that would have provided a federal apparatus languished while on the opposite end of the spectrum, casino mogul Sheldon Adelson sought an outright ban on online gambling.

In the meantime, states forged ahead with plans to allow online wagering with varying degrees of success. Nevada and Delaware created an interstate compact to allow online poker; New Jersey is offering online gaming but has stumbled with implementation of sports betting, which is opposed by most major sports leagues. The issue remains mired in the courts. Other states, including California, have online gambling under consideration, with online poker considered the most viable option. Several states, including Illinois, have also moved into online lottery sales, with Kentucky expected to join this growing list.

Animal Welfare

For over a decade, a variety of efforts have been made to secure a federal ban on horse slaughter with mixed results. No ban currently exists, but states have shown little sustained interest in having equine slaughter facilities and currently none operate in the United States. A chief proponent of efforts to ban horse slaughter, Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), lost her re-election bid in 2014.

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act, introduced in 2013, would have provided the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency with authority to regulate and enforce medication usage for racehorses competing in races with simulcast wagering. Several Congressional hearings were held on the bill but a truncated Congressional calendar, occasioned by the 2014 elections, and a plethora of Congressional issues resulted in little action for the bill in the second half of the 113th Congress.

Immigration

Efforts at comprehensive immigration reform begun by the U.S. Senate in 2013 floundered in the House of Representatives in 2014. The White House responded to the impasse with an Executive Order (EO) in late November 2014 that would have extended legal rights to several million undocumented aliens.

According to the White House, the EO would help secure the border; prioritize deportations to focus on terrorists and felons; hold undocumented immigrants accountable by requiring them to pass a criminal background check and pay their fair share of taxes; and modernize the legal immigration system.

More than 20 states have joined efforts to overturn the EO, saying it is unconstitutional. The issue is likely to remain in the judicial system for the next several months.



WHAT NTRA CONTRIBUTORS ARE SAYING

"As hard as those of us in the industry are working each day on our farms, we can't forget how important it is to have a 'sixth man' like the NTRA supporting our team in Washington."

-Josh Pons of Country Life Farm & Merryland Farm, Bel Air, MD

"For our industry, it is fundamental for us to have eyes, ears and voice monitoring the activity in Washington. NTRA has provided this leadership and for that I am most appreciative and strongly support their efforts."

---Headley Bell of Mill Ridge Farm, Lexington, KY

"Our farm lives are demanding enough. It's good to know that the NTRA is there to promote our legislative needs. They have my continued support."

-Scott Mallory of Mallory Farms, Lexington, KY

"Everything my family and I have is a result of us working in the Thoroughbred industry. We support the NTRA's political efforts to keep the Thoroughbred industry a viable way of life for our family, and the hundreds of thousands of other families who make this business our way of life."

-Clovis Crane of Crane Thoroughbreds, Lebanon, PA

"For Thoroughbred racing and breeding to flourish, we have to be engaged every day in Washington, promoting the interests of the sport and the breed. The NTRA does just that and deserves our support."

—Tom Hinkle of Hinkle Farms, Paris, KY

"Thoroughbred owners, breeders, trainers, and backstretch employees are all busy people. Horse care is a seven-day-a-week job. Those of us who are focused on the horse need someone guarding our interests in Washington, D.C. The NTRA thankfully fills that role."

—Jeff Greenhill of Greenhill Racing, LaGrange, KY

"It is of vital importance that every segment of this wonderful industry support the legislative efforts of the NTRA on a national scene. Things just don't happen and we industry stakeholders need to be supportive of groups that see to it that the right things do happen. As a longtime owner/breeder, I have always found the NTRA to be responsive and always taking a leadership role. I do support their efforts and thank them."

-Donald Valpredo of Donald Valpredo Farms, Bakersfield, CA

"If the NTRA isn't advocating on behalf of the Thoroughbred industry in Washington, then who is? Now more than ever, our industry requires a presence in Washington and the NTRA is it. That's just one of many reasons we support the NTRA."

-Bryan Lyster of Ashview Farm, Versailles, KY

"Although I truly believe that the legislation requested for horse racing is very much aligned with helping solve today's current hot topic of immigration and also necessary to perpetuate interest from U.S. investors, we can't do it alone. I hope we all recognize the extraordinary accomplishments the NTRA has achieved for us and I, for one, thank them and will continue to be a strong supporter."

-Ernie Semersky of Conquest Stables LLC, Highland Park, IL

"As an agent and owner in this industry, I see how the efforts of the NTRA indirectly affect every single person working at the racetrack and farms. We all greatly benefit from the presence of the NTRA in Washington."

—Alex Solis II of Solis/Litt, Los Angeles, CA

"From time to time the NTRA has received flak from our industry that they don't do enough, but the NTRA works tirelessly on Capitol Hill on issues that affect our livelihood. We want to give our children the opportunity to enjoy the Thoroughbred industry like we have and the NTRA's continuous work in DC on our behalf will keep that legacy alive."

-Tommy & Wyndee Eastham of Legacy Bloodstock, Lexington, KY

2014 LEGISLATIVE ACTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

A. Bianco Holdings Abo Al Roos Stud Farm Academy House Adena Springs Adena Springs North John H. Adger Agave Racing Stable John Aglialoro Ramon Aguayo Akindale Farm Alan Booge Racing Alastar Thoroughbreds Hector Alcalde Randy Alderson Alex Solis Bloodstock John Allen Fred Allor Al Shaqab Racing American Thoroughbred Ventures Mary Jo Amlie Sally J. Andersen Thomas Andreadakis Denny Andrews Luis A. Archilla-Diaz Philip J. Arnold Ashbrook Farm Larry D. Ashlock Ashview Farm Audley Farm Equine George Autry Avnesford Holdings B B F B. D. Gibbs Farm BHMFR LLC **BWB Bloodstock** Babcock Farm Baccari Bloodstock **Robert Bachelor** John H. Baffa **Bob Baffert** Stephen Baker Wayne Bakke Ballantrae Jake Ballis Gary Barber Rozamund Barclay **Bardasian Stable Barely Able Farm** James R. Barnawell Bar None Ranches Michael Barro Bartolome Mafla H. Tom & Elizabeth Baxter Bay Cove Farm **Bear Stables**

Beechwood Racing Stable Richard A. Bell Dr. Oscar Benavides Allison Bennett **Buddy Bensmiller** Nick & B. J. Bentley Dennis Behrman Craig Bernick **Besilu Stables** Best a Luck Farm Charles L. Biggs **Bigheart Thoroughbreds** James Billingsley Jose A. Birriel, Jr. Eric Bishop Blackacre Farms Blackburn Farm Black Horse Farm Black n Bleu Blackstone Farm Ron Blake Blandford Stud Margaret Bloss **Blue Checker Thoroughbreds Bluegrass Industries** Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services Blue Sky Equine Mobile Vet Service Blue Sky Farm **Bluewater Sales** Bona Terra Stud Bona Venture Stables Walter S. Borisenok Boutté Sales Kellie Bowers William "Buff" Bradley Randy Bradshaw Brandywine Farm Mark D. Breen **Brehon Farm** Niall Brennan Bridlewood Farm Brittania Farm **Christopher Britton** Brookdale Farm **Brookdale Sales Brook T. Smith Investments** Darrell & Lendy Brown Shelley Brown **Brushwood Stable Bucket List Farm Bugle Hill Farm Burleson Farms Burning Sands Stable** Barry & Joni Butzow

Larry Byer **CFP** Thoroughbreds CJZ Racing Caldara Farm Calumet Farm Alex G. Campbell Francis & Jessica Campitelli David Cannizzo Canterbury Farm Cantium Bloodstock Cardinal Racing Stable Carl R. Moore Management Jean Carmichael Webb Carroll Training Center Mike Carson Cashmark Farm Justin Casse James F. Caterbone Carmen Catizone Kerry Cauthen Centaur Farms **Centennial Farms** Scott Centerse **Champion Racing Stable Clinton Chan Chanceland Farm** Dr. John A. Chandler Pramote Changsila Charisma Stable Charlton Bloodstock Agency Chestertown Farm Chrys E. Chrys Susan Chu **Circle H Farm** Claiborne Farm **Clarkland Farm** Michael P. Cloonan **Coffee Pot Stables** Kelly Colliver Jeffrey Columbo James M. Connors **Conover Stable Conquest Stables** Copper Cap Farm **Copper Penny Stables** Coppertree Farm Corrigan Racing **David Cottle Cottonwood Stables** Country Life Farm Dr. Ruel Cowles C-Punch Ranch Crane Thoroughbreds Crestwood Farm Bryan Cross

Cross Keys Sales **Crowning Point Farm** Crystal Eclipse Stable Robert Cunningham Patrick Curry Thomas A. Curtis **DKW Racing** D P Racing Don Danard Darby Dan Farm Dark Hollow Darley Dattt Farm Randall Davidson Albert Davis John Davison Dee Tee Stable **Dell Ridge Farm** de Meric Sales Denali Stud J. Keith Desormeaux Devonleigh Farm Mike Schiano Di Cola Anthony J. Didier Lou Dunn Diekemper David DiPietro Dixie Farm Caroline Dodwell David Doering Franklin Dorman Double Duck Double K Draper Farm Dr. Luis Duco Bobby Duhon Ciaran Dunne Kevin Eagen Eaton & Thorne Eaton Sales **Donnell Echols** Edition Farm Peter Edwards Robert Ehrnrooth Eisaman Equine Ela Racing Stable Eliza Park International Michelle Elliott Elm Tree Farm Empire Equines Ends Well Chris Englehart Epona Two Stable Equus Farm Erin-American Bloodstock Jose Luis Espinoza

Justin Evans Everett Livestock Chris Ewing **Exclusive Equine Investments** Fairway Farm Farfellow Farms **Dennis Farkas** Tracy Farmer William & Penny Fires **Firsthome Thoroughbreds** William D. Fishback, Jr. Fleetwood Bloodstock Perry Flynn Vincent J. Foglia Anthony J. Fontana Forrest Chorus Farm Susan M. Forrester Fort Christopher's Thoroughbreds Dennis Foster Four Star Sales Joseph Fowler Foxharbor Farm Albert Frassetto Todd Frederick Freedom Stable **Cary Frommer** Alistar Fyfe GEO SL **GMB** Racing **GRS Stable** Gaineswav Dr. Michael T. Gallivan Juan Garcia Rafael Garcia Jose Garoffalo Gar Oil Company Garrencasey Sales Gateway to Sanity Stables John M. Gaver III Gemstone Farm Genesis Racing Cornelia Gibson **Glenangus Racing** Glen Oak Farm Glendalough **Global Equus Thoroughbreds** Richard L. Golden Golden Goose Enterprises Golden Oak Farm **Richardo Gonzalex** Good Luck Farm Gooree Park Stud Grady Racehorses Grand Oaks Grassroots Training & Sales

2014 LEGISLATIVE ACTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS (continued)

Bob Grayson Greenfield Farm Jeffery L. Greenhill Greenlinks Resort Gresham Family Partnership Gabe Grossberg Bruce R. Grossman Helen K. Groves Mary K. Grum Grupo 7C Grupo C19 Gun Powder Farms H. J. & I. Elkins Stable Hackett Bros. Thoroughbreds Mike Haggerty Brian K. Hall Hamburg Place W. Rowland Hancock Dr. Kendall E. Hansen Happy Tenth Stable Haras D'Etreham Hardacre Farm Hare Forest Farm Steve Harner Harper Bee Stables Harris Farms Nancy Harris Ressa Harris Dr. John C. Harroff Harry L. Landry Bloodstock Edward Hart Hartwell Farm Jeff Hartz Haymarket Farm Alvin Haynes Haynes Stables Blake Heap Heaven Trees Dan Henning Hermitage Farm James Hess Laqueta Hicks Hidden Brook Hidden Brook Racing 6 John P. Hicks **Highcroft Farm** Jim & Susan Hill Hill 'n' Dale Sales Agency **Timothy Hills** Hillwood Stable **Nick Hines Hinkle Farms** Robert E. Howeler James Hogan **Tony Holmes**

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Robert & Mary Ellen McKee Micah McKinnev Gene McLean A. J. McMahan McMahon & Hill Bloodstock McMahon Thoroughbreds Anthony Melfi Ben R. Merik III Christopher J. Meyer Harry & Tom Meyerhoff Midwest Thoroughbreds Mighty White Stallion Mike Ryan Bloodstock Miklin Stable Mill Ridge Sales Judy Miller Leverett Miller Maurleen Miller Joseph S. Minor James Moloney Montesacro Farm Eugene Montoya Angel Morales Morgan's Ford Farm Jane Moriarty Colonel James Moseley William I. Mott Mt. Brilliant Farm Mt. Joy Stables Kristin A. Mulhall Mulholland Farm Murdog Development Murmur Farm Brad Murray N W Management Jonathan Nance Thomas Nash NATO Irvin S. Naylor **Michael Neatherlin** Paul Newhart Newsells New Zealand Bloodstock Justin Nicholson Howard C. Nolan, Jr. Nordic Thoroughbreds Robert Norman Normandy Farm Northern Bloodstock Northview Stallion Station Novogratz Stables **Nursery Place** Henry & Janet Oak Oakwood Farm Vernon Obermeier

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2014 LEGISLATIVE ACTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS (continued)

Reade Baker Racing Stable Mike & Nancy Recio Reddam Racing LLC **Bill Reightler Relentless Racing** Renpher Stables **Richard Resuta** Rhapsody Farm Joseph Riccelli Bryan Rice **Richard & Tammy Rigney** Michael J. Riley **River Ridge Ranch Riversedge Racing Stables** Edward S. Robbins III J. Kirk & Judy Robison Rockin Z Ranch Rock Talk Farm **Rockytime Farm** Murray L. Rojas Rose Creek Farm **Rosegrove Farm Rosemont Farm** Richard A. Rosenberg Royal Oak Farm Joel & Ali Rush S. Barton, Inc. SBM Training & Sales **SEJ Stables Bobby Salome** Curtis A. Sampson George Santis Abe Santos San Yee Ranch David & Sandra Sardello Saturday Racing Stable Andrew Savas Scanlon Training Center Tom Schaffer Matthew Schera Lynn B. Schiff Jennifer & Byron Schunk

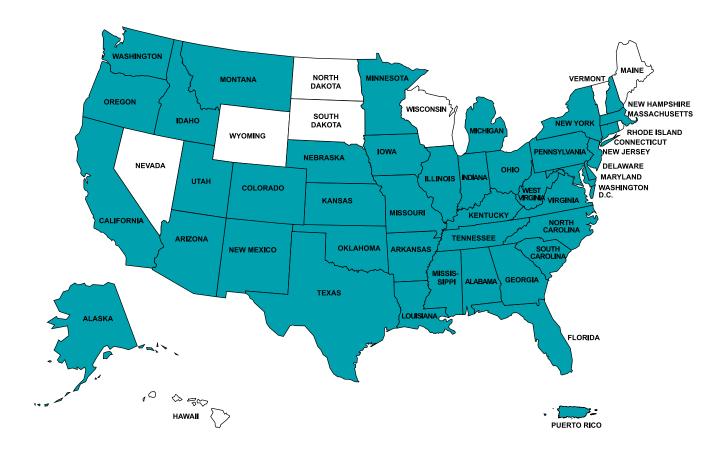
Sea Jay Farm Sebold Racing LLC Secure Investments Seitz/Kelly/Folkerth Seitz/Kelly/Swain Krista Seltzer Serenity Spring Farm Shadwell Farm Michael Shanley **Timothy & Vickie Shaw** Shawnee Farm Shelby Lane Farm Sheltowee Sales **Michelle Sherack** Joseph V. Shields, Jr. Luis A. Shirley Shortleaf Stable Nancy Shuford Siegel Sez Racing Silver Fern Farm Simmons and Associates Sinatra, Smith & Finn Sinatra Thoroughbred Racing & Breeding Mary Slack Slam Dunk Racing Trond Smedshammer Frankin G. Smith Green B. Smith, Jr. Kim Smith Melinda Smith Someday Farm South Branch Equine Southern Comfort Farm Southwest Capital Racing Spaeth Machine Shop **R.** Townsend Sparks William S. Sparks Michael Spielman Sporting Life Stables Springland Farm Danny Stafford

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The Stallion Company Sally Thomas Thorndale Farm Tim Thornton Thoroughbred Champions Training Center **Three Chimneys Sales** Three Gin Guys Stable Don Tiger **Tilly Foster Farm** Timber Bay Farm Time Will Tell James H. Tolliver Toothaker Sales Agency **Top Line Sales** Top Racing LLC **Town & Country Farms** Jack Treadway TriStar Farm Troubadour Racing Stables John Trumbulovich Robert L. Tucker Lisa & Tim Turney Gary Tussey Twin Willow Farm Two Hearts Farm AI & Bill Ulwelling Roddy Valente **Donald Valpredo** Harvey & Nancy Vanier Gayle Van Leer VanMeter Sales Dr. George Veloudis Very Un Stable Vinery Sales VinMar Farm Vinnlaur Racing Stables Vintage Farm Vincent Viola Carolyn R. Vogel Vossfeld Bloodstock Robert S. Vukelic

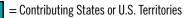
W & T Thoroughbred Holdings Anne Walsh John P. Warren Warwick Equine Sales Watkins Bloodstock Wavertree Stables George Weaver Ken Westlye Westerly Horse Farm West Point Thoroughbreds Keith Westrup Mike & Cheryl Whieldon Ross Whipple Whispering Oaks Farm Whisperwood White Cloud Bloodstock White Fox Farm Judd Whitworth Justin Williams Wayne Williams Kathleen Willier William Willoughby Willow Creek Ranch David & Holly Wilson Winchester Equine Windmill Manor Farm WinQuest Thoroughbreds Wings Ranch David E. Winpigler, Sr. WinStar Farm Wintergreen Farm Winter Quarter Farm Wintickett Farm **Bill Witman Gayle Woods** Wounded Warrior Stables X Press Thoroughbreds Yellow Brick Stables Yonkers Racing Corporation Young Racing Zeta Racing Arnold Zetcher

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OF NTRA FUNDRAISING



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Argentina	Ireland	Saudi Arabia
Australia	Japan	South Africa
Canada	New Zealand	United States
France	Panama	West Indies
	Qatar	



NTRA CONNECTING WITH BUYERS & SELLERS



Barretts March Select Sale of 2-Year-Dolds in Training



Keeneland November Breeding Stocк



Fasig-Tipton The November Sale



Keeneland November Breeding Stocк



Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Selected Yearlings



Fasig-Tipton The Florida Sale

NTRA CONNECTING WITH BUYERS & SELLERS



Barretts March Select Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training



Fasig-Tipton The July Sale



Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-Year-Olds in Training



The Aiken Trials



Keeneland September Yearling



OBS March Sale of Selected 2-Year-Obds in Training

NTRA CONNECTING WITH BUYERS & SELLERS



Fasig-Tipton Kentucky Fall Yearlings



Fasig-Tipton The November Sale



Keeneland September Yearling



Fasig-Tipton The Saratoga Fall Sale



Keeneland September Yearling



OBS Spring Sale of 2-Year-Olds in Training

NTRA VIDEOS PROMOTING THE CHECK-OFF PROGRAM

Click to play video





NTRA ADVANTAGE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

NTRA Advantage is a for-profit subsidiary of the NTRA that forms partnerships and sells products and services at reduced cost to more than one million members and affiliated members of the NTRA. Advantage partners include John Deere, Sherwin-Williams, Office Depot/OfficeMax, Nationwide and UPS. Major member groups include Breeders' Cup nominators, as well as members of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, and Thoroughbred Owners of California. Affiliate members include the American Quarter Horse Association, Equine Canada, United States Equestrian Federation and the United States Trotting Association. Since 2002, NTRA Advantage has saved industry members over \$100 million. Purchases by equine members through the group purchasing programs average \$50 million annually.

Visit www.NTRAadvantage.com or call toll free 866-678-4289 for up-to-date partner information, including special pricing.



NTRA'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY

The NTRA's Lexington, KY-based government relations team performs a broad array of legislative advocacy services for the horse racing and breeding industry. Working closely with the NTRA membership and Board of Directors, the team determines the industry's governmental priorities and then develops a comprehensive legislative strategy to achieve these priorities. The current strategy includes building relationships with members of Congress and their staffs, educating them on industry issues and concerns and introducing lawmakers and staff to industry members in the field.

The government relations team is in daily contact with The Alpine Group, the NTRA's lobbying arm on Capitol Hill. The Alpine Group's guidance and expertise are invaluable and help move the horse industry's legislative agenda through Congressional processes. From meetings with Congressional staffers and members of Congress to bill drafting to committee mark-ups, hearing and votes, The Alpine Group provides the expertise essential to effective advocacy.

Another key member of the NTRA government relations team is Davis and Harman partner Thomas A. (Tad) Davis. Davis provides the NTRA membership sophisticated tax advice and advocacy. Whether it is economic incentives to encourage the breeding and sale of horses or the elimination of onerous taxation of pari-mutuel wagering, government policy has an enormous impact on the economics of



Greg Means (right) of The Alpine Group and NTRA President and CEO Alex Waldrop (left)

horse racing. Davis provides the NTRA government relations team with the expertise necessary to achieve progressive federal tax policy.

One essential element of an effective advocacy strategy is fundraising. The NTRA primarily builds financial support through its Legislative Action Campaign's ¼% Check-off program at major Thoroughbred auctions. Industry members who buy and sell at Keeneland, Fasig-Tipton, Ocala Breeders' Sales Company, Barretts Sales, Washington Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Association and Breeders' Sales Company of Louisiana may contribute one quarter of one percent of each horse's sale price to help fund the Campaign.

Industry members also support NTRA fundraising through the Foal program, a bi-annual direct mail effort targeting owners and breeders who may not buy or sell at auction. Contributions start at \$50 per foal.

Campaign finance also is important to NTRA advocacy. The NTRA government affairs team organizes and participates in fundraisers on behalf of Horse PAC, the political action committee of the NTRA. Horse PAC has disbursed more than \$3 million to upwards of 300 federal political candidates and leadership PACs over the past decade – more than Caesars Entertainment, the NFL and Major League Baseball spent over the comparable period. Click here to read the 2014 Horse PAC Annual Report.

Another component of the NTRA's government advocacy efforts is the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance. Formed in 2008, the Alliance is a standing organization whose purpose is to advocate for the establishment of national uniform standards and practices in the areas of human and equine safety as well as integrity in conduct of horse racing. While the NTRA legislative priorities are federal in scope and application, the Alliance provides guidance at the state level through accreditation of tracks found to be in compliance with the Alliance Code of Standards. The Alliance Code is enforced in large part by regulations issued and enforced by state racing commissions. Alliance certification standards cover six broad areas: injury reporting and prevention; a safer racing environment; medication and testing; jockey safety and health; aftercare for retired racehorses; and wagering security. The Code further sets standards with respect to compliance and enforcement and is amended as new research recommendations warrant. In 2014, the Alliance released the sixth version of the Code.

The horse racing industry is part of a \$39 billion agri-business touching every state. Each year, nearly \$11 billion is wagered on horse racing nationwide. Governmental regulation and oversight are critical to horse racing's economic development and long term survival. For this reason, the NTRA dedicates significant resources to protecting and promoting horse racing on Capitol Hill.

Starting with a landmark 2000 amendment to the Interstate Horseracing Act that paved the way for online betting on pari-mutuel horse racing, the NTRA has built a significant presence on Capitol Hill. The NTRA has strengthened its presence even as federal lobbying expenditures by all industries have skyrocketed. The chart below shows the tremendous growth in lobbying expenditures across all industries, including the gambling sector in particular.

YEAR	LOBBYING – ALL INDUSTRIES	LOBBYING – GAMBLING INDUSTRY
2000	\$1.56 billion	\$15.34 million
2014	\$3.23 billion	\$34.32 million

As part of the gambling industry, the NTRA in 2014 once again spent roughly one tenth of the amount spent by just one casino operator – Caesars Entertainment. Our strategic approach to government relations allows us to accomplish our objectives without the extraordinary amounts expended by other groups.

NTRA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CAMPAIGN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Legislative Action Campaign?

The Legislative Action Campaign empowers individual and corporate members of the NTRA to support federal legislative advocacy services for the horse racing and breeding industry.

How is the Legislative Action Campaign funded?

The Legislative Action Campaign raises funds through three programs: the ¼% Check-off, the Foal program and Horseplayers' Coalition membership. For the former, buyers and sellers may support the Campaign by pledging ¼ of one percent of the price of their horses sold at Keeneland, Fasig-Tipton, Ocala Breeders' Sales Company, Barretts Sales, Breeders Sales Company of Louisiana and Washington Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association. Every \$1,000 in a horse's sale price equates to \$2.50 to the Campaign. Individuals who choose to not participate in auction sales may pledge contributions through the NTRA Foal program. Others may support the Campaign by joining the Horseplayers' Coalition, whose objective is to seek legislative and regulatory solutions to tax and business issues that impact pari-mutuel racetracks and their customers.

How do I participate?

Sellers, consignors and designated agents may "pre-commit" their pledge on sales entry forms for the ¼% Check-off. Sellers who miss the deadline for pre-commitments can pledge until the close of sale billing. Buyers may include their contribution when submitting payment or by responding to an NTRA-generated invoice. Owners and breeders may contribute through the Foal program. The NTRA solicits contributions to this program through a bi-annual direct mail campaign. Horseplayers and other individuals may become members of the Horseplayers' Coalition when joining the *Daily Racing Form*/NTRA National Handicapping Championship (NHC) Tour or by visiting www.HorseplayersCoalition.com.

How can Federal lobbying help make our industry more competitive?

By securing tax legislation that benefits industry stakeholder groups such as horse owners, breeders, racetracks, advance deposit wagering service providers and horseplayers and by addressing select issues that directly impact the economics of racing, such as taxation, Internet wagering, immigration, and matters that affect farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers.

How does the NTRA lobby on Capitol Hill?

NTRA fields a government relations team based in Lexington, KY and retains the Washington, D.C.-based Alpine Group to lobby on federal issues specific to pari-mutuel horse racing and breeding. NTRA coordinates with the American Horse Council on legislative advocacy issues that impact all equine breeds and disciplines.



NTRA FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

What's the Difference?

Legislative Action Campaign

Political Action Committee

Common Names:	"¼ Percent Check-off program"	"Horse PAC" or "NTRA PAC"
Contribution Uses:	Contributions are used to support Federal legislative advocacy to benefit the racing and breeding industries.	Contributions are not co-mingled with NTRA corporate funds and may only be used to support political candidates and parties at the Federal level.
Contribution Limits:	There is no limit on the amount that can be contributed. Individuals and corporate entities like partnerships and farms can participate.	\$5,000 per individual, per year. Spouses of individual members may also contribute \$5,000 each. Contributions from corporations are not accepted.
Payment Methods:	Thoroughbred buyers and sellers contribute ¼% of the price of a horse sold at public auction to the NTRA's Legislative Action Campaign. Note these alternative ways to contribute: Owners/breeders and others who do not participate in auction sales may contribute through the Foal program. Horseplayers' Coalition members contribute \$25 when joining.	Personal check or credit card (VISA, Discover, MasterCard or American Express), payable to Horse PAC and addressed to: Peggy Hendershot Horse PAC 2525 Harrodsburg Road, Suite 510 Lexington, KY 40504
Deductibility:	May be tax deductible as an ordinary business expense.	Not tax deductible.
Added benefits:	Supporters are automatically eligible to receive preferred pricing on products and services from companies like John Deere, Sherwin-Williams, Office Depot/OfficeMax, Nationwide and UPS through NTRA Advantage. Visit www.NTRAadvantage.com or call toll free 866-678-4289 for more information.	Horse PAC supporters are automatically eligible to receive preferred pricing on products and services from companies like John Deere, Sherwin-Williams, Office Depot/OfficeMax, Nationwide and UPS through NTRA Advantage. Visit www.NTRAadvantage.com or call toll free 866-678-4289 for more information.
Membership:	Participants automatically become NTRA members and may be PAC-eligible (see column to the right).	Contributors must be NTRA members.
Citizenship Requirements:	Open to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.	Contributors must be U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens.
NTRA Contact:	Joe Bacigalupo 859-422-2677 joeb@ntra.com	Peggy Hendershot 859-621-6929 phendershot@ntra.com

INDUSTRY THANK YOU

The NTRA extends its sincere appreciation to the following industry leaders for their generous support of the Legislative Action Campaign.

















FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Bacigalupo Director of Government Relations & Membership Development 859-422-2677 www.SupportHorseRacing.org