

## Molly Wingrove

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**From:** Crystal S <cserra24@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 8:50 AM  
**To:** Rep. Michael Webber (District 45); Rep. Ryan Berman (District 39); Rep. Kathy Crawford (District 38); Rep. Diana Farrington (District 30); Rep. Ben Frederick (District 85); Rep. Missy Hoytenga (District 102); Rep. Graham Filler (District 93); Rep. Matt Hall (District 63); Rep. Pauline Wendzel (District 79); Rep. John Chirkun (District 22); Rep. Frank Liberati (District 13); Rep. Sara Cambensy (District 109); Rep. Jewell Jones (District 11); Rep. Alex Garza (District 12); Rep. Isaac Robinson (District 4)  
**Cc:** Molly Wingrove  
**Subject:** Regulatory Reform Committee - SB 661 Support

Dear Chairman Webber and Committee members -

I wanted to take a moment to email you today as I will be unable to attend your committee meeting in person to ask you to please support SB 661 for authorization of historical horse racing at Michigan's racetracks. You will hear testimony today from my colleagues and it is my hope that you support this legislation that is key to the revival of this agriculture and labor intensive industry.

The racing industry for decades have been coming to Lansing asking for support and assistance to put the industry on a level playing field with surrounding states that have moved forward with a business model pairing traditional casinos gaming with racetracks known in the industry as racinos. It has been made clear from our casino interests here in Michigan, many that have investments in racinos in other states (MGM specifically) that they are not interested in this model for Michigan and their main goal is on putting Michigan's racing industry out of business. We come before you with 1 track and 1 breed racing and another track waiver on opening without the help of an effective business model. Without this new track our breed counterpart will be left another year without racing which only makes the revival more difficult.

However historical horse racing machines are NOT casino style gaming - they are a pari-mutuel wagering product that bring the racing industry in-line with other states as these wagering products appeal to a younger generation. Pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing has been legal in Michigan for quite some time and therefore is NOT an expansion of gaming. The revenue generated from this product will infuse the industry with the necessary funds to bring investment back into Michigan.

The racetracks must have an agreement with a certified horsemen organization in order to operate historical horse racing and there are already provision in the horse racing act of 1995 that protect live racing. Northville Downs, my partner track is committed to keeping live racing going and they understand that to attract fuller fields of horses the purse structure must be attractive. That is exactly what this legislation will do. It will allow for purses to increase.

With this legislation enacted it will signal to the racing industry that Michigan is ready to be a player again and we will attract mare owners, stallion owners, trainers and racehorse owners as the purse structure from the shared revenues with this product will increase dramatically.

A strong purse structure for our state's sire stakes will drive up the number of mares bred to Michigan stallions in the state. These mares will reside at MICHIGAN farms, and use Michigan grain, hay, trucks, trailer, veterinary services and employ Michigan residents with the care of these horses. One horse can employ 10-20 people indirectly. On average it takes \$30,000-\$40,000 to raise a racehorse from conception to age 2 when it can complete, with 300 mares currently in the state that's an economic impact of almost 1 million a year annually and that number will likely double or triple with the help of this legislation.

Anyone that tells you this legislation is about racetracks becoming casinos does not have a full comprehension of the way the racing industry works....this is about bringing money back into Michigan racing and increasing the breeding and investment in Michigan horses and Michigan agriculture.

Please strongly consider supporting this crucial legislation - it will bring those that left Michigan back home, it will keep Michigan money in Michigan instead of losing revenue and investment to states like Ohio and Indiana that have lucrative programs sire stakes and racing programs. We can make Michigan racing great again but we can not do it without your support.

I am happy to come talk to anyone on the committee to address any and all questions you have related to Michigan's racing industry.

Thank you for your time.

Have a great day,  
Crystal Terrell  
MHHA Director - treasurer - colt stakes committee chair  
Macomb County