

## **New Jersey mayor makes a plea to scuttle the Hanson Report**

Monday, July 26, 2010 - from Harness Racing Communications

*The mayor of one of New Jersey's "horsiest" counties, Nancy Grbelja, who has adopted retired Standardbreds, has issued a release calling upon citizens to fight one of the key findings of the recently released Hanson Report that would severely cripple a significant portion of the township's economy:*

**Millstone Twp., NJ ---** The equine industry in New Jersey benefits every resident in the state through its' economic impact and its role in preservation of farmland and open space throughout our state. The industry includes horse racing, breeding, sports/recreation and pleasure interests and is incorporated in other areas such as retail, veterinary medicine, feed and supply, insurance and real-estate -- to name a few.

On Wednesday the Governor declared his support of a report released by a committee designed to study New Jersey's gaming industries. The report commonly known as the "Hanson Report" calls for the state takeover of Atlantic City's tourist district and getting out of owning, managing and assisting the horse racing industry. It is obvious from the report that New Jersey is no longer interested in the live racing business.

The opinion comes from the Commission's recommendations, which eliminates the major player in harness racing, the Meadowlands Racetrack, and proposes to change legislation to allow OTW (off track wagering) without the need for live racing.

Nowhere in the Hanson report does it address the value of the horse industry to the state's agricultural business or economy. The recommendations of the report will destroy the horse racing industry in New Jersey and ultimately negatively impact every other aspect of the equine industry -- as well as our precious open space and farmland across the state. On Thursday, July 29, 2010, a meeting will take place with representatives of the equine industry, several legislators and the governor. We need you to call the governor and key legislators now and tell them:

- The closing of the Meadowlands would be devastating to the harness industry in the state and globally;
- The horse breeding industry would be severely impacted and the state would lose a significant amount of tax-paying open space;
- If New Jersey racing ceases to exist, sport competition, recreational horse use and traditional agricultural interests such as grain, hay, and straw farmers will be adversely affected;
- The financing of the 4-H Youth Development programs and Horse Park budgets supported by the racing industry will disappear;
- Without a long-term vision for keeping the horse racing industry in New Jersey, the industry will collapse and there will be a mass exodus to other states that have embraced the racing industry;
- A state takeover of the Atlantic City tourist district is nothing more than a special interest bailout at taxpayer expense; and
- Monies can be better used to expand gaming to other areas creating racinos which could better both the casino and horse industry.

*The release concludes with contact information for the governor and key state legislators, and a plea that says "Please call and e-mail for the next three days. Only YOU can save the horse industry."*

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**District 11** - Sen. T. Kean: (732) 974-0400, [SenSKean@njleg.org](mailto:SenSKean@njleg.org)  
Assemblywoman. Mary Pat Angelini: (732) 974-1719, [AswAngelini@njleg.org](mailto:AswAngelini@njleg.org)  
Assemblyman David Rible: (732) 974-1719, [AsmRible@njleg.org](mailto:AsmRible@njleg.org)

**District 12** - Sen. Jennifer Beck: (732) 933-1591, [SenBeck@njleg.org](mailto:SenBeck@njleg.org)  
Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande: (732) 866-4262, [AswCasagrande@njleg.org](mailto:AswCasagrande@njleg.org)  
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Assemblyman Ronald Dancer: (732) 901-0702, [AsmDancer@njleg.org](mailto:AsmDancer@njleg.org)  
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