

April 25, 2011

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, SJR 33 AND HJR 111 will give Texas the chance to vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow Texans to play slot machines at 13 existing licensed racetracks and three federally-recognized Indian Reservations in Texas.

WHEREAS, SB 1118 and HB 2111 outline the details of how and where slot machines would be allowed at racetracks along with the federally recognized Indian reservations if passed by above constitutional amendment.

WHEREAS, these bills are REVENUE GENERATING MEASURES THAT DO NOT RAISE TAXES. *(Slot machines at licensed Texas racetracks will generate a projected \$850 million for the State in THIS BUDGET CYCLE and a projected \$1 Billion for the state in each single year thereafter.)*

WHEREAS, revenue from slot machines at Texas racetracks will bolster purses at racetracks and fund Texas-bred incentive programs, which will allow Texas horse breeding operations to be reinvigorated. *(The additional revenue will bring back many breeding operations that have left the state for greener pastures in Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.)*

WHEREAS, racetracks in our neighboring states use slot machines to supplement their purses and are then able to offer better racing, luring away Texas' racing and agri-business industries. *(Horse purses in Texas, the amount of money that a winning horse earns, pale in comparison to our surrounding states. Veterinarians, feed stores, trailer and truck sales, large scale and "mom and pop" breeding operations, horse trainers, and tens of thousands of other Texans employed in the agriculture industry depend on the survival of this vital part of our economy.)*

WHEREAS, the non-racing Texas horse industry would benefit through the Texas Performance Horse Development Fund. This revenue would provide larger prizes for shows, scholarships for youth organizations, and increased funding for horse recreational development. *(Texas is a destination for national and world championship events and shows. The Texas Performance Horse Development Fund would allow us to ensure that we are doing everything possible to preserve our rich heritage of horsemanship.)*

WHEREAS, the Texas Performance Horse Development Fund will have the ability to support every horse owner and breeder in Texas. *(Whether someone is involved in show horses, reining horses, cutting horses, trial riding horses, pleasure horses, 4-H horse activities, high school rodeo, or any other discipline, the PHDF can help make those activities stronger.)*

WHEREAS, the Texas Performance Horse Development Fund will strengthen every aspect of the horse industry in all 254 Texas counties, without expanding gaming beyond the locations where gaming is already legal.....that being licensed racetracks in Texas.

WHEREAS, voting in favor of this legislation is simply a vote in favor of letting Texans decide what is good for Texas. *(A vote in favor of this legislation will simply allow the question to go to the people of Texas in a constitutional amendment vote in November 2011.)*

WHEREAS, Texans should be allowed to decide if they want to keep their entertainment dollars and those economic benefits here in Texas. *(Right now, billions of Texas dollars are funding schools and other amenities in states like Louisiana and Oklahoma. In 2009, Texas lost more than \$2 billion in gaming revenue to Louisiana and Oklahoma alone. A whopping 43.6% of Louisiana's gaming revenue comes out of the pockets of Texans. Bring it to the ballot and let Texans have a voice in where their money goes.)*

WHEREAS, voters in local option elections have already approved gambling at their racetrack locations. *(License holders are subject to state oversight and thorough background checks. Allowing slot machines at these facilities would mean no expansion of gambling in the overall footprint of gambling in Texas.)*

AND WHEREAS, Falls County has no race tracks but does have horse breeders and businesses that would benefit from the non-tax dollars that these bills would bring into our county and communities as well the coffers of the State of Texas.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

The Commissioners Court of Falls County hereby fully supports the passage of **HB 2111, HJR 111, SB 1118 and SJR 33** so that the citizens of Texas may choose if they support licensed slot machines within the already legal racetracks in Texas.

Passed and approved this 25th day of April, 2011.



R. Steven Sharp, Falls County Judge



Milton Albright, Commissioner Pct. No. 1



F. A. Green, Commissioner Pct. No. 2



Nelson Coker, Commissioner Pct. No. 3



Ryan Ford, Commissioner Pct. No. 4

Attest: 

Linda Watkins, Falls County Clerk