



Texas HORSE Sample letter #1 – February 2013

Honorable [redacted]
TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES / **OR** TEXAS SENATE
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Date

Dear Representative [redacted]

I am a Texas horse owner, and my industry desperately needs your help.

(Insert your story. Tell them where you live, how long you have been in the horse business, annual expenses, how many horses you own, number of employees or family business, etc. Please make it personal.)

As you work to address the state's legislative challenges, especially water, roads and education, Texans are shipping their tax dollars just over our borders in neighboring states, and it is choking off the lifeblood of our Texas horse industry. Every year Texans spend about \$2.5 billion on gaming in Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico because they can't spend those dollars here in Texas. You can help put a stop to allowing this massive exodus of entertainment dollars by giving Texans the right to vote on slot machines at licensed horse and dog racing tracks and recognized Native American Reservations.

Studies show that Texas could generate nearly \$1 billion a year in tax revenue and create more than 75,000 new jobs if we expanded gaming. This proposal will also provide the much needed resources to ensure that the Texas horse industry as a whole remains strong. Expanding gaming could help the entire Texas horse industry, not just folks who breed or own racehorses. Texans who breed and own roping horses, show horses, cutting horses, reining horses, pleasure horses, trail riding horses and every discipline of horse will be assisted by revenues from expanding gaming that will be dedicated to a Performance Horse Development Fund in Texas. And that means helping Texans in each and every one of our 254 counties. We can hopefully reverse this mass exodus of owners, trainers and breeding farms from our state and save an industry important to our state's economy and heritage.

Overwhelmingly, polls consistently show that Texans like me want the opportunity to decide this issue in the voting booth. Please allow us that opportunity by voting for a constitutional amendment to allow slot machines at racetracks.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this important issue.