

On behalf of thousands of our members in Rhode Island, we ask that you allow dog racing to end on August 8. For the good of the state and the good of the greyhounds, please do not force Twin River to maintain this punitive aspect of its business.

In the United States, greyhound racing is a dying industry that is cruel and inhumane. Every major animal protection organization in the United States, including the undersigned, opposes it. Equally, public opinion condemns this antiquated activity. In Massachusetts, citizens voted 56-44% to close Wonderland and Raynham Parks last year. In a recent survey by the University of New Hampshire, an even higher number of Granite State citizens agreed, and lawmakers responded by relieving The Lodge at Belmont and Seabrook Greyhound Park of their statutory racing requirements. Therefore, Rhode Island is now the only New England state in which dog racing remains legal and operational.

Racing greyhounds are kept confined in warehouse-style kennels, inside small, stacked cages which are too small to allow free movement. Other than for brief turn-out periods, greyhounds live restricted for an average of 20 hours per day with little ability to interact with one another. When racing they face the risk of serious injury. At dog tracks nationwide, thousands of dogs are hurt, suffering broken legs and necks, crushed skulls, cardiac arrest, paralysis and seizures. Some dogs die while racing, while others are put down because of the severity of their injuries, or because of their diminished value as racers.

To put it simply, this is no way to treat a dog.

The decline of greyhound racing has been ongoing for years, and media outlets have long reported the spiraling collapse of this industry. Not only have humane concerns come to the forefront, but competition from other forms of gambling has also forced tracks to close. Since 2004 alone, sixteen tracks have shut down operations, and nine states have made greyhound gambling illegal *per se*, including our sister states of Maine and Vermont. The trend is definitely with the greyhounds.

In Rhode Island, the Department of Business Regulation reports that Twin River loses \$10 million a year on live racing. Now more than ever, propping up this cruelty can no longer be justified.

Please reject any proposal for an override of Governor Carcieri's veto of S 286, Substitute B. The citizens of Rhode Island, and its greyhounds, deserve no less.

Sincerely,



Christine A. Dorchak, Esq., President and General Counsel
GREY2K USA



Dennis Tabella, Director
Defenders of Animals



Michael Markarian, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
The Humane Society of the United States



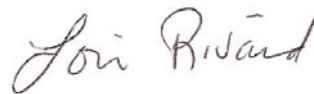
Laura Maloy, Senior Vice President, Anti-Cruelty
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



Kim A. Casci, President
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Phyllis Dorr, President
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