

Testimony in support of H8217: Dog Racing

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To: Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee

Greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane. Hundreds of dogs die on the track and thousands are injured, most of which are then euthanized. Puppies are euthanized if deemed unworthy to race. These activities are called 'sports', but they are hardly based on sportsmanship. These dogs are forced to run when injured and killed if not proclaimed winning stock. These animals can be loving pets and don't deserve what we do to them. The whole point of racing greyhounds is to bet on the race. The incentive for continuing this cruelty to the dogs is to make money on each race. If the incentive, i.e. making money on the bet, is removed, dog tracks will shut down. There are only two tracks left in the US. They are in West Virginia. Rhode Island shut its track down in 2010 thanks to the legislature and governor terminating long term subsidies to keep it going. There are still numerous tracks in many countries, but they are all under pressure to close, and many recently have. Thankfully, this is a dying 'sport', but continued betting will prolong it. Please be proactive and remove the incentive, betting, in RI which helps to support the remaining tracks.