

CAGE | *Citizens Against Gambling Expansion*

State of Minnesota Racing Commission
1100 Canterbury Road South
Suite 100
Shakopee, Minnesota 55379

Dear Commissioners:

I write today on behalf of Citizens Against Gambling Expansion (CAGE), a statewide Minnesota 501(c)(4) non-profit organized over 20 years ago to stop the expansion of gambling in our great state. We write to you today to let you know of our concerns about Historic Horse Racing (HHR) machines and how we believe they would create a massive expansion of gambling by increasing the number of electronic gambling machines and their locations in Minnesota.

The machines used for HHR betting are purposely designed to mimic typical slot machines. A player's experience is essentially identical to that provided by slot machines. HHR machines are an attempt to bypass legislative actions that have stopped many additional attempts to expand slot machine gambling throughout the state.

The HHR machines under consideration look like slot machines, act like slot machines, and in any reasonable evaluation are slot machines.

National and international studies have shown slot machines to be the most addictive form of gambling.

The Haynes Clinic, which provides treatment for problem gamblers recently released a report on just how highly addictive slot machines are. They said [slot machines] "contribute to more [problem gambling and addictive behavior](#) than any other gambling activity. Electronic gaming machines have become known as "the crack cocaine" of gambling. Slot machines are designed to play on many reward mechanisms of the brain. Slot machines, in any environment including Casinos, play faster than any other game. They are set up to perform a massive 500 spins or more each hour. This is against a hand played casino card game of Blackjack at 60 to 90 hands an hour and the difference is obvious. Slot machines have a higher percentage profit back to the casino. Therefore, this fast play rate combined with a larger casino advantage can lead to serious losses over a short period of time."

The introduction of HHR machines in Minnesota will defy existing laws governing slot machines and parimutuel betting.

As you well know, the Minnesota Racing Commission is charged with ensuring the integrity of pari-mutual horse racing. Parti-mutual is defined as a "system of betting on which those who have bet on the winners of a race share in the total amount wagered

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less a percent for the management.” HHR is not pari-mutual. Instead, gamblers place bets individually and the odds and payouts are fixed in advance.

CAGE and our coalition members who oppose the expansion of gambling in Minnesota strongly encourage the State of Minnesota Racing Commission to defeat the effort to place HHR electronic slot machines at our state horseracing tracks.

Sincerely,

Jack Meeks

Jack Meeks
Chairman,
Citizens Against Gambling Expansion