

Asiel Stable, LLC

Dr. Richard and Gail Radke
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Dear Senator

I am enclosing information that you have not seen before. My husband Dr. Richard Radke and I live in Kansas and for the past 35 years have foaled and raced Thoroughbreds in Illinois. The question probably crossing your mind now is, "What do out-of state people and the breeding/racing Agra Business have to do with me or my district?" Senator, the data presented on the following pages will demonstrate that we, along with 158 other out-of state breeders, generate a significant revenue stream for the overall State of Illinois's Agra Business.

After all these years in Illinois, it is unfortunate that we have to consider moving our operation to a neighboring state. The increasing unfriendly environment is also taking its toll on the 612 in-state breeders who are trying to survive. They are faced with the same dilemma of moving to adjoining states to realistically remain viable. This potential exodus from Illinois would have a ruinous effect on jobs, local economies and the Illinois Agra Business in general.

The Breeders are the "Heart" of the Illinois Racing Industry. In the Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975 the Breeders were uppermost in the minds of the Acts crafters. Breeders are listed prominently in the very first paragraph and again in numerous other locations in the Act as being a fundamental and vital component within the Agra Business. The creators of that 1975 Act understood that we provide the product and the fuel that generates a revenue stream without costing the state any out of pocket funds or raising taxes. How can we continue to be encouraged to produce and stay in Illinois when we see our purses diminishing, are frequently put on the back burner while watching neighboring states successfully support this industry?

It has taken me several days to research and compile this information. I have incorporated our own business financial information that specifically identifies the breeding contributions that just one farm makes to the revenue stream in Illinois. In addition, listed are the subsequent state wide co-dependent industries our farm subsidizes and rely on for services. Also contained in this packet are impact study overviews that paint a clear and factual picture of the successes forty-four racinos are enjoying across the country.

Decision makers like you need to have accurate data when formulating opinions and laws that affect the lives of others. I am hoping that you will take a few moments to examine these facts. See how supporting the bill to introduce slots at the tracks will impact your community and you're State to the tune of \$25.5 million dollars.

So in answer to the question posed in the first paragraph of my letter, this topic does have to do with you and does touch your district in some way. The revenue leakage into next door neighbors will continue to swell and co-dependent Agra Businesses like farm implement and truck dealerships, feed stores, insurance agency and farm land will soon cease to exist.

Thank you for reviewing this information and feel free to give me a call should you have any question.

Sincerely,

Gail Radke, Owner/Breeder
Asiel Stable, LLC

Dr. Richard and Gail Radke have bred and raced over a dozen Illinois Champions. In 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006 they were Illinois Breeders of the Year. In 2007 they were honored as breeder of Illinois Horse of the Year "Rolling Sea" and Brood Mare of the Year "Almost Sma".

An Illinois Breeders Overview

The health of the Illinois Racing Industry impacts many layer segments. Farms, breeding, owning, training, operating a track, sales of horses and secondary venues like feed stores, farriers, and veterinarians all inter-connected and woven into the fabric of the industry. Raising a single foal from conception to its 2 year old year costs approximately \$37,000 and does not include the stallion fee. It involves many co-dependent industries. This rippling effect is compounded by the number of farms, breeders and owners that are involved in a healthy racing program.

Each year Asiel Stable has about 10 foals. In 2008 we had 9. The financial profile for one 2008 foal from conception through it's 2 year old year (2010) is as follows:

Category	Cost For One Foal
Foaling in IL/Mare Care	\$5,747.00
Registration Fees	\$250.00
Transportation	\$1,200.00
Shoeing at Track	\$1,650.00
Training in IL	\$21,600.00
Lead Pony Service	\$150.00
Veterinarian Services	\$6,700.00
Total Cost for 1 foal	\$37,297.00
Total Cost for 9 foals	\$335,673.00

The above figures are just a part of the revenue stream generated from one breeder into the Illinois economy.