

16 January 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

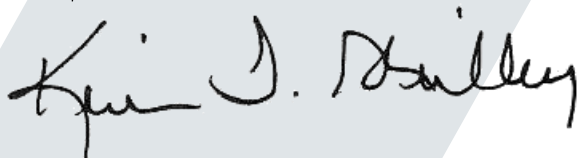
On behalf of the Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) and our more than 1,200 business partners, I urge you to reject any efforts to decouple live horse racing from casino operations. As the Horse Capital of the World®, this move would be economically devastating to our community and region.

A 2023 American Horse Council economic impact study estimates that equine powers more than one-fifth of the area economy – one-fifth of jobs, one-fifth of GDP and one-fifth of landmass. More than half of this *equinomic* juggernaut ties directly to the Thoroughbred industry.

The development whims of out-of-state corporations should not burden the shoulders of hard-working Marion County residents. Our citizens have contributed greatly to the tradition of Florida horse racing but will be left cold when far away entities cash out.

Please help us support our signature local industry and say No to decoupling. Thank you for your continued leadership for our region and our state.

Best,



Kevin T. Sheilley/CEO
President/CEO

