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Dear Florida State Senator,

The Florida Feed Association represents the interests of feed manufacturers, suppliers, and related firms that support Florida's robust agricultural economy. Our industry is connected with Florida's equine sector, which depends on a strong thoroughbred industry. The proposed decoupling of live racing from gaming envisioned by House Bill 105 and Senate Bill 408 threatens an essential industry, jeopardizing not only horse racing but also the many businesses that depend on it, including feed manufacturers, suppliers, and countless agricultural workers across the state. On behalf of the Florida Feed Association, I urge you to stand with Florida agriculture and oppose HB 105/SB 408.

Florida's thoroughbred industry is not just about horse racing — it's a vital part of the state's agricultural economy, supporting farms, trainers, breeders, and businesses that provide the necessary feed and supplies for the industry. Decoupling would remove the requirement that racetracks hold live races while still enabling them to benefit from gaming revenues. This would certainly lead to a decline in racing activity, which in turn would have terrible consequences for those who provide the essential products that keep Florida's racehorses thriving.

The Florida Legislature has historically recognized the importance of protecting and promoting thoroughbred racing. In 2021, lawmakers made a deliberate decision to exclude thoroughbreds from decoupling, reinforcing their commitment to Florida's horse racing and breeding industries. The passage of HB 105/Sb 408 would undo these protections, favoring outside gaming interests at the expense of an industry that has long been a cornerstone of Florida agriculture.

This issue is about more than horse racing, it is about the broader agricultural economy that benefits from a thriving horseracing sector. The feed industry in particular relies on the continued demand generated by Florida's thoroughbred farms and training facilities. Undermining this industry will hurt not only breeders and trainers but also feed producers and suppliers.

We urge you to reject HB 105/SB 408 and protect Florida's thoroughbred industry and the agricultural businesses behind it. The Florida Feed Association stands ready to work with you to ensure that our state remains a leader in agriculture, equine excellence, and economic opportunity. Leadership in the Florida Senate has long been a champion for horseracing and feed, and we ask you to continue that commitment by rejecting any measure that would destabilize this key sector of our economy. Let's work together to ensure that Florida remains a leader in thoroughbred racing, breeding, and agriculture for generations to come.

Sincerely,

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