

To: Trainers, Drivers, Care Takers, Owners  
Veterinarians, Feed & bedding Suppliers  
Harness & Tack Suppliers.

From: FSBOA

Now is the time for all involved in the Standardbred Industry to join forces and fight for our survival. The State of Florida will start their 2010 Legislative Session on March 2, 2010. If we don't get legislative changes passed giving us parity with the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse industries during this session we can expect our stakes and breeding programs will become none existent.

Based on the input we have been getting from our representatives in Tallahassee we are as close now as we have ever been to getting the legislative changes we need to give us parity. But now is the time for all the people of our industry to campaign with emails, letters, or by phone to all legislators in Tallahassee that can help our cause.

Please make all correspondence respectful and not abusive as these legislators are the people that appear to be on our side. Keep your emails and letters **factual** and ask they give the **Standardbred Racing Industry the same protections afforded to the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse Industries in Florida**. Also you can advise these Legislators that our lobbyist "**Bo**" **Bohannon** will be talking to them as the session proceeds.

Let these legislators know that we have been forgotten and neglected by The Isle with regard to getting our fair share of the revenue generated from the slot machines. Let them know that we were promised in writing by The Isles general manager that if slots legislation passed we would get **180** days of racing, **A Contract** and **1000** race horse stalls in return for our help financially (\$100,000) and physically by campaigning for the passage of slots legislation in Broward County. Tell them that as of today the Isle has refused to negotiate any type of contract because they don't have to by state statue. Let them know The Isle has decreased our racing days in the last two years from **180** to **140**, the **minimum** required by state statue to keep their poker license. Also inform them The Isle has lowered our annual purses about 30% over the same two years. Let them know along with the decreased purses the Isle has reduced our daily number of races from 11 or 12 races per program to as low as 8 races on two programs each week, again the **minimum** required by state statue for the program to count as a good performance. It is apparent by The Isles actions we are only going get the **minimum** required by law.

It is very important that you express how these changes at The Isle have and will affect you personally by **loss of income** and "**a way of life**" for the horsemen if we don't get legislative help **THIS SESSION**. Let them know what it will do to your family and business financially. **Tell them about the lost tax revenue for the State of Florida, the number lost jobs, the negative affect on agriculture and the local economy** it will have if you are forced to down size your business or possibly be forced to move to

another state that has slot enhanced racing, states that have legislation protecting all the race horse industries equally.

Please send your emails and letters to your local State Senate & State House Representatives if you need help getting this information call Jim at the FSBOA office 954-972-5400 or email him at [Jim.fsboa@att.net](mailto:Jim.fsboa@att.net). Listed below you will find the names and email addresses of the other **IMPORTANT LEGISLATORS** you should copy your emails and letters to. Also please send a copy to [Jim.fsboa@att.net](mailto:Jim.fsboa@att.net) .

**AGAIN NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO SAVE OUR INDUSTRY.**

Thank you in advance for you support.

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## **OTHER IMPORTANT LEGISLATORS: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Charles Chestnut ([charles.chestnut@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:charles.chestnut@myfloridahouse.gov))

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## **SENATE**

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