

**In Support Of Preserving Counties' Role In The Future Of Off Track Betting**

The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Lomita and Legislators Bartels, Berardi, Gregorius, Provenzano, Zimet, Cummings, Gerentine and Noonan) and Legislators Bischoff, Cahill, Dart, Distel, Donaldson, Kraft, Liepmann, Lomita, Loughran, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, and Terpening offer the following:

WHEREAS, the State's contract with the New York Racing Association to run Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga racetracks is expiring at the end of 2007, and

WHEREAS, New York State leaders have created an Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Racing (the Committee) to assist in developing the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for companies wishing to bid on operating the State's thoroughbred racing franchise, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has stated that one of the Requests for Proposals (RFP's) could merge the current Off Track Betting Corporation (OTB) structure into the racing franchise operations, which would impact the financial and operational relationship that counties have with OTB's, and

WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, 43 counties have received more than \$3 billion dollars in revenue from New York's OTB Corporations that have been used to offset local tax increases, and

WHEREAS, this revenue has already decreased as a result of the introduction of Video Lottery Terminals (VLT's) and policy changes that have shifted more and more OTB revenues away from counties, and

WHEREAS, Counties are more than by-standers in any decision that affects OTB's and horse racing in New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval.

RESOLVED, that Ulster County believes counties must be represented on any committee that proposes changing the financial and operational relationship between counties and OTB Corporations, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that counties' stake in the future of horse racing and OTB Corporations in New York State be preserved, and

**Resolution No. 217 June 14, 2006**

**In Support Of Preserving Counties' Role In The Future Of Off Track Betting**

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 31                      NOES: 1  
(NOES: Legislator Roberti)  
(Absent: Legislator Liepmann)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
UNKNOWN

0627