

On Wednesday, July 26 the Texas House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee heard testimony on the current status and future outlook of the Texas racing industry from Charla Ann King , the Executive Director of the Texas Racing Commission, , and Tommy Azopardi , the President of Texans for Economic Development (TED).

Representative Kino Flores, Chairman of the Committee, called the hearing to “review ways to make the Texas racetracks more attractive to Texans and tourists in order to keep them viable and producing tax revenue for the state.”

Charla Ann outlined 5 factors that affect the future of Texas racing: competition from neighboring states with alternative forms of gambling; technological change; multi-jurisdictional problems on different rules and procedures; growth of illegal gambling in Texas, particularly 8-liners; and financial constraints on the TRC, which must regulate racing with reduced resources.

Tommy testified on the reasons why Texas racing has declined, including an un-level playing field with surrounding states, lack of distribution through off-track facilities and other methods, and competition with other gaming opportunities.

TED is a coalition of racetracks, greyhound and horse breed organizations and license holders formed to promote the legalization of video lottery terminals at Texas racetracks. The Texas Greyhound Association is a member of the coalition.

Click here

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/committees/broadcasts.php?session=79&cmte=350> to access the video of the hearing, listed under 7/26/06. The testimony of Charla Ann and Tommy is in the first part of the hearing.