

1 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Pascal.

2 MR. PASCAL: Pascal.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: David Pascal?

4 MR. PASCAL: Yeah.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes?

6 MR. PASCAL: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Please go right ahead.

8 MR. PASCAL: Good afternoon. My name is David
9 Pascal, a long time fan of horse racing. I chair a committee of
10 fellow racing enthusiast that for over five years has worked on
11 numerous projects with industry leaders in California and
12 elsewhere.

13 The six million race fans in the United States love
14 this sport. It's excitement, pageantry, folklore, and it's
15 traditions. American race fans have longstanding traditions to
16 uphold.

17 Did you know an entry in George Washington's diary
18 states that he lost 1 pound 6 in wagers at a race meet in
19 Annapolis in 1772? And in 1790 at the race course in Alexandria
20 his colt, Magnolia, was defeated by a horse owned by Thomas
21 Jefferson.

22 My children are not youngsters, but if they were I
23 would not hesitate having a day at the races as a family outing.
24 Race tracks provide clean and safe activities specifically for
25 kids. And I view them as a haven especially when compared to
26 alarming growth of spectator sports or in so called professional
27 receive extremely high salaries to engage in real or feigned
28 violence that often leads violence among the spectators
29 themselves.

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1 In addition to being distinct from other spectator
2 sports, racing is very different from other types of gambling.
3 It is more intellectually challenging and it embodies and drama
4 simply not found in other gambling options. Tossing to plastic
5 cubes across a table hoping that they up come a seven, simply
6 doesn't compare to the contest of horses and riders in a stretch
7 duel to finish line. Don't even try to compare racing to video
8 poker or similar electronic adventures where we can view the
9 mesmerized player, almost become an extension of the machine
10 itself, while he or she competes with a computer chip.

11 I see that the commission has a brief tour of Del Mar
12 Race Track scheduled for today but the tour is optional. I
13 suggest that the tour is necessary but insufficient. I implore
14 you to experience more, gain a deeper understanding of this
15 industry so that you can make informed judgements.

16 So I have given your staff individualized lists to be
17 sent to each of you that contain contact names, phone numbers of
18 the NTRA race courses and the state wide breeders' associations
19 closest to your homes. I strongly recommend that each of you
20 make an early morning visit and I stress early morning, to a race
21 track, a breeding farm, or a training center. Meet people who
22 devote their lives to this sport. Feel the beauty. You will see
23 God's handiwork especially if you visit during the foaling
24 season. This is flesh and blood not neon, not green felt, not
25 noisy jackpots, and certainly not smoke filled.

26 Thank you.

27 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

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