

March 16, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401



Re: Support for House Bill 1598

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Rosecroft Raceway, I am writing to express our support for **House Bill 1598**.

Rosecroft Raceway, located in Prince George's County, has been a cornerstone of Maryland's harness racing industry for decades. As with many racetrack facilities across the country, our infrastructure is aging, and maintaining safe, competitive, and modern facilities requires substantial and ongoing investment.

The current matching fund requirement associated with racetrack renewal funding can make it difficult to complete needed improvements in a timely manner. **House Bill 1598** offers a practical solution by allowing racetracks to utilize funds already dedicated for racetrack renewal without the upfront matching requirement, while still protecting the State's interests through existing safeguards such as live racing commitments and recapture provisions should those commitments not be met.

Live racing at Rosecroft Raceway generates important economic activity for Prince George's County and the State of Maryland. Our race meets support a wide range of jobs and businesses throughout the equine industry, including breeders, trainers, veterinarians, farriers, feed suppliers, and many other small businesses that rely on a healthy racing ecosystem.

When racetrack facilities fall behind, the impact extends well beyond the racetrack itself. This legislation provides the flexibility needed to reinvest in our facilities, improve the customer experience, and ensure that Maryland's racing industry remains competitive.

For these reasons, **Rosecroft Raceway respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1598.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lisa M. Watts'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa M. Watts
General Manager / Director of Operations
Rosecroft Raceway