



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TOBA JOINS COALITION FOR HORSERACING INTEGRITY

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association announced today that it will become a member of the Coalition for Horse Racing Integrity and support HR 3084.

Following the filing of HR 3084 earlier this year, TOBA formed a special committee to analyze the bill and surveyed its membership. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents supported federal legislation to create a national independent entity to develop uniform rules, testing and enforcement in Thoroughbred racing, either in its present form or with some changes.

TOBA to this point has focused on improving the legislation, particularly in the governance and review of the Thoroughbred Horseracing Anti-Doping Authority. Over the course of recent months we have expressed our concerns including the need for oversight to ensure the effectiveness of the program, including industry evaluation of performance, accountability and costs of the regulations.

The TOBA Board of Trustees believes that the proposed federal legislation would further the interests of the horse racing and breeding industry in the following respects: (1) uniformity of medication standards and regulations throughout the nation; (2) consistency with other major international racing jurisdictions regarding the use of medications; and (3) the independence of an organization established to ensure fairness and transparency in these matters.

TOBA believes progress has been made, but more work needs to be done to develop an oversight and governance structure that will balance agency independence with accountability to our sport. As an organization we prefer to be part of the solution to bring about positive industry reforms. We look forward to working with other members of the Coalition for Horse Racing Integrity to pursue this new approach to medication regulation.

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TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization of leading Thoroughbred breeders and owners. TOBA's mission is to improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders. Projects managed by TOBA include the American Graded Stakes Committee, Claiming Crown, Ownership Seminars, Breeding, Conformation & Pedigree Clinics, TOBA Owners Concierge and the Sales Integrity Program. TOBA, in collaboration with The Jockey Club, has also created a free information resource called OwnerView to provide pertinent information to new, prospective and current Thoroughbred owners. TOBA provides international representation for U.S. owners and breeders on the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee, International Cataloguing Standards Committee and International Breeders Federation. Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA) is the charitable arm of TOBA. TOBA Media Properties, a subsidiary of TOBA, owns The Horse magazine, Eclipse Press and is co-owner of The Blood-Horse LLC. TOBA is represented on the board of directors of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium as founding members.

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