


May 19, 2021

Senator Kirk Schuring
Chair, Select Committee on Gaming
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215


Senator Nathan H. Manning
Vice Chair, Select Committee on Gaming
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chairman Manning, and Members of the Committee:



On behalf of the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, we welcome the opportunity to share with the Select Committee on Gaming our views on S.B.176, a bill to legalize and regulate sports gaming. We thank you for your leadership on these issues and strongly support efforts to legalize sports gaming in Ohio.

Opened in 1962, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio, is widely known as the most competitive road course in the United States. Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course annually hosts several national racing series with international television coverage, including the NASCAR Xfinity Series and the IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship. The facility is open from April 1 to October 31 each year and is non-stop with activities during this time, which generate an annual estimated economic impact in the surrounding counties of more than \$36 million. Our longstanding relationship with NASCAR and its affiliate organization, IMSA, are key to our continued growth and economic impact in the local community.



Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course became the home site of The Mid-Ohio School in 1993 to expand the facility's use beyond hosting race events and provide driving and motorcycle riding instruction to Ohioans. In 28 seasons, The Mid-Ohio School boasts 79,125 all-time graduates, including 23,091 teenage drivers and 20,777 motorcyclists. Beginning later this year, it will again host the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) for Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers and county and city law enforcement on safe driving techniques, dynamics, and vehicle control for driving their patrol cars and SUVs. Approximately 1,560 patrolmen and local law enforcement officers statewide will attend this potentially life-saving training.

While we view sports gaming as an opportunity to reach new fans, we strongly support measures that protect the integrity of the race events we host. It is critical to the future of our sport that our fans, competitors, officials, and racetrack owners remain confident that any expansion of sports gaming does not interfere with the ability to conduct fair, safe, and competitive races. We believe this bill takes several necessary steps to address these concerns.



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Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course strongly supports the creation of a process that allows a sports governing body to formally petition the Ohio Casino Control Commission to prohibit certain wagers that could compromise the integrity or safety of our race events. Further, provisions in the bill that allow for the sharing of certain gaming data and that require cooperation in investigating potential violations are critical to supplementing the internal controls many of the motorsports leagues have already implemented to safeguard against improper activity. We also believe that requiring the use of official league data would further strengthen consumer confidence and ensure that the most accurate data is being used to settle wagers associated with our race events.

In addition to the integrity measures outlined above, we believe that a robust sports betting framework in Ohio should include a regulated and competitive marketplace for online, mobile, and retail sports gaming. While Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course supports a competitive process for awarding type A licenses, we would note that the bill currently affords a limited number of sports gaming agents the ability to control an unlimited number of “online sports pools.” We believe that allowing more licensees to control fewer online sports pools provides for a more equitable marketplace that ultimately benefits consumers through increased competition. And a better consumer experience incentivizes bettors to participate in a state-regulated market, rather than the black market.

As it relates to type B licenses for sports gaming facilities, we applaud the addition of language directing the Commission to consider the equitable distribution of sports gaming facilities among all regions of the state. As a sporting venue located outside of the state’s major metropolitan areas, race events at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course have an outsized economic impact on our local community. A sports gaming facility would have a similar positive impact, and we support efforts to ensure that all potential type B sports gaming agents receive full and fair consideration.

We also support the bill’s intent to ensure that type B licenses will incentivize strong economic development across the state. We would note, however, that a limit of twenty such licenses also means that Ohio could miss out on some truly impactful economic development opportunities. As businesses recover from the pandemic, we should be doing all we can to encourage new investment in our state.

We believe that legal sports betting provides a promising opportunity to strengthen our local economy by attracting new visitors, partners, and sponsors to our race events. We look forward to working with you on these important issues and would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Savoree
Co-owner, President and COO
Green Savoree Mid-Ohio, LLC