



March 31, 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 National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), we welcome the opportunity to share with the Select Committee on Gaming our position on a legal framework for sports betting in Ohio. We view sports betting as a promising new opportunity to further increase interest and strengthen fan engagement in motorsports.

Since its creation in 1948, NASCAR has evolved into one of the most popular sports in the world. Today, NASCAR is the sanctioning body for the premier form of motorsports in the United States and the owner of 16 of the nation's major motorsports entertainment facilities. NASCAR consists of three national series, four regional series, one local grassroots series, and three international series. Our affiliate organization, the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA), is the premier sports car series in the United States. With offices in eight cities across North America, NASCAR sanctions more than 1,200 races in more than 30 U.S. states, Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

While we view the gaming space as an opportunity to reach new fans, maintaining the integrity of our races will always be the sport's top priority. NASCAR has dedicated significant resources to ensure the integrity of the sport is not compromised as legalized sports betting markets expand across the country. It is critical to the future of our sport that our fans, competitors, officials, and partners remain confident that any expansion of sports gambling does not interfere with the ability to conduct fair, safe, and competitive races on the track. NASCAR has a shared interest with the other professional sports leagues in seeing illegal betting markets eliminated and supports legislative policies that strengthen integrity protections, including:

Use of Official League Data: Real-time data is produced and managed by NASCAR throughout an event to support our broadcast partners and track timing and scoring during race competition. This data also enables fans to engage throughout race events. The sport moves fast and so does the data. Only official league data can ensure fans have the most accurate and reliable data to engage minute-by-minute throughout a race. Requiring the use of official league data to support sports wagers will strengthen consumer confidence and ensure that the most accurate data is being used to settle any wagers associated with the sport.

Fraud Monitoring / Insider Information: NASCAR has taken steps to update its rulebook prohibiting employees, officials, and competitors from placing wagers on the sport. Trainings and workshops are conducted regularly, and internal controls are in place to

monitor for fraudulent activity. However, internal league controls alone are not enough to safeguard against improper insider wagers. States should specifically prohibit this type of activity and require sports books to cooperate with league investigations into any suspicious activities.

League Approval of Bet Types: In-race bets create unique opportunities to engage fans in new ways. However, some bet types could create significant risks for the safety and integrity of a race event. States should ensure that leagues and sanctioning bodies have a process to petition for the restriction of certain bet types that could compromise the integrity or safety of the sport.

In addition to the integrity measures outlined above, we believe that a robust sports betting framework in Ohio should also include a regulated and competitive marketplace for online and mobile sports wagering. NASCAR strongly supports legislation that allows professional sports organizations to share in the benefits of legalized sports betting in Ohio through access to a mobile sports wagering license (or “skin”). In turn, these organizations could partner with a third-party gaming operator to offer mobile sports betting throughout the state.

As other professional sports organizations have noted in their recent testimony before this Committee, it is our respective organizations that generate the content that ultimately creates and sustains any sports betting market. And this is not a novel concept. NASCAR has supported similar frameworks in Arizona, Illinois, and Virginia.

We also believe that sports fans in Ohio benefit when professional sports organizations have access to a competitive mobile sports betting marketplace. Increased competition benefits consumers through improved product quality and greater variety of bet types, odds, and promotions. A better consumer experience also incentivizes bettors to participate in a state-regulated market, rather than the black market.

When NASCAR was founded, its earliest mission was to bring organization to stock car racing and to establish consistent standards to protect both the competition and financial integrity of the sport. Today, and as we look to the future, we appreciate the Select Committee on Gaming’s focus on sports betting issues and look forward to participating in a continued dialogue around these important issues.

Thank you again for this opportunity to share our views on sports betting. Please contact me at tlesetarsmith@nascar.com or 386-310-6830 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Tracey Lesetar-Smith
SVP & General Counsel
NASCAR