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Hon. Andrew Fraser, MP
Treasurer
Queensland Government, Treasury
GPO Box 611
BRISBANE QLD 4001

(Email & Post)

Dear Minister

As you have been aware for some time Queensland Racing Limited (QRL) has been seeking the support of Government to introduce Race Fields legislation similar or parallel with, Victoria 2006, West Australia (WA) 2007, South Australia 2007, to protect the income base of the Queensland industry in the event of a breakdown in the Gentlemen's Agreement.

NSW has recently enacted legislation and is aggressively seeking to charge a product fee, whilst Victoria is currently amending its legislation, which previously recognised The Gentlemen's Agreement, to a more aggressive stance and will not exempt interstate wagering operators (UNITAB and WA Tote)

The Queensland industry is exposed to substantive losses of revenue through the lack of corresponding legislation.

Reference is made to our recent discussions on Tuesday 22 July, 2008 involving the recently introduced Race Fields legislation by the NSW Government.

As explained during our recent discussion, Racing NSW, as a result of the recently introduced legislation will levy a fee equivalent to 1.5% of wagering turnover on NSW racing product.

As a result of this fee being levied against UNITAB, UNITAB will pass on the associated costs to the 3 control bodies (refer enclosed letter). The product fee payable to the 3 codes of racing in Queensland will be diminished. As a consequence, QRL remains of the view that the State Government, in

consultation with the industry, should move quickly to develop similar Race Fields legislation that would, in essence, have the effect of combating the financial impact that the 3 codes of racing in Queensland will feel as a result of UNITAB being able to pass on the associated costs to the racing industries in Queensland. On the basis that Racing Victoria takes a position to reduce the impact of the move by NSW, and relies fully on its own legislation, the annual impact on the thoroughbred racing industry in Queensland will be substantial.

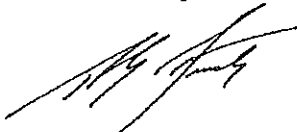
It is understood that "Crown Law" opinion in respect of the NSW Legislation is being sought and no doubt that opinion will prove valuable. Our concern is that there will be lag time between the implementation of the NSW Legislation and the enactment of appropriate Queensland Race Fields legislation to protect the Queensland industries and as a result the 3 codes of racing will bear the brunt of any associated costs.

Your Government is urged to commit resources as a matter of urgency, in consultation with the 3 codes of racing, to the development of draft legislation so that, if needed, it can be promptly enacted.

Attached are two pieces of correspondence, one from Racing NSW dated July 22, 2008 and the other from UNITAB dated July 24, 2008.

I await your positive response to our request.

Yours faithfully



R.G. BENTLEY
Chairman

- Cc **Tony Hanmer** (Email & Post)
*Chairman Product Co.
Board Director Queensland Racing Ltd.*
- Cc **Bob Lette** (Email & Post)
Chairman Queensland Harness Racing
- Cc **Kerry Watson** (Email & Post)
Acting Chairman, Queensland Greyhound
- Cc **Bill Andrews** (Email & Post)
Board Director Queensland Racing Ltd.
- Cc **Bill Ludwig** (Email & Post)
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