

**JOHN SMITH**State Senator  
District 30**COMMITTEES:**

Commerce, Chairman  
Agriculture  
Natural Resources  
Joint Legislative Committee on  
Capital Outlay  
Legislative Audit Advisory Council

**SENATE  
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September 21, 2011

Mr. Jerry Meaux  
Chairman, Louisiana State Racing Commission  
320 N Carrollton Avenue Suite 2-B  
New Orleans Louisiana 70119-5100

Dear Chairman Meaux:

Let me begin by thanking you and the members of the Racing Commission and your staff for your work on behalf of a very important industry to our state. Horse racing has a tremendous history in Louisiana and plays a critical role in our culture and most importantly in our economy. All of us must work together to preserve and grow horse racing in Louisiana.

As you know, the Louisiana State Senate Commerce Committee has jurisdiction over many legislative matters related to horse racing. We take this responsibility very seriously and want to work with the Racing Commission and all other interested parties in nurturing horse racing in Louisiana.

Members of my committee and other elected members of the Legislature have been contacted during the past few months by a cross section of persons involved in horseracing concerning problems they are facing at Evangeline Downs. Specifically, the concerns were focused on the perceived unusual amount of horses being disqualified by the state veterinarian at Evangeline Downs.

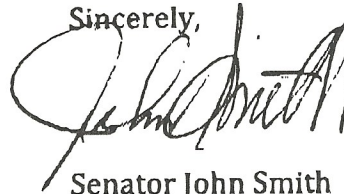
On September 9, 2011 I convened a Senate Commerce Committee meeting at Evangeline Downs so that members of my committee and other interested legislators could learn more about these concerns. We heard from dozens of people in the industry; trainers, owners, veterinarians, feed store owners, training facility owners and many others. The complaints and concerns expressed at this hearing were unanimous in stating that the state veterinarian at Evangeline was disqualifying an inordinate amount of horses.

It is my understanding that this veterinarian is contracted for these services by the Louisiana State Racing Commission. Please accept this letter as an official request by my office and the undersigned members to meet with us regarding this matter as soon as possible. We committed publicly to those present at our hearing on September 9 that we would bring this to your attention and request a solution.

Please understand that we join with everyone present at our meeting in stating that we believe that the safety and integrity of horse racing is paramount. We do not wish to compromise that ideal in any way. However, this issue must be addressed and we expect a meeting to discuss this very soon.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Smith", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Senator John Smith

Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee

Cc: Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor