



Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association

March 29, 2010

Jon Schuster
General Manager
Indiana Downs
4200 North Michigan Road
Shelbyville, IN 46176

Dear Jon,

ITOBA's website provides a "link" to a message board blog at probboards.com just like it provides a link to Indiana Downs, Hoosier Park, IHRC and seventeen (17) other industry related websites listed. Probboards.com provides free blogs to over 26,000,000 registered bloggers, according to their website. The message board has always made it clear the views on that blog are **NOT** those of ITOBA, the blog administrator specifically notes that on the front page. In fact, I made the suggestion beginning in June of 2009 that bloggers should limit their criticisms to specific policies and leave out the personalities. Since ITOBA does not own or pay for a message board, your accusation that we use state funded dollars to fund it is inaccurate and retraction of this accusation from Indiana Downs is in order.

In December, you called a meeting of the Presidents and Executive Directors of the ISA, HBPA, QHRAI and ITOBA. You informed everyone in attendance that it was Indiana Downs intent to initiate legislation to reduce the Horsemen's 15% of slot AGR from 15% to 10%, as well as, initiating legislation that would shift \$18 million dollars in tax liabilities from the tracks to the horsemen. We were all stunned when you forcefully stated we should all accept this initiative if we were "good partners". My board of directors no longer wanted to hold our board meetings at Indiana Downs after your meeting and comments. I'm sure our directors and members won't be too upset about your decision of not allowing ITOBA to meet at Indiana Downs. ITOBA prides itself on not being leveraged by Indiana Downs and losing this eliminates any potential leverage point in the future.

I sincerely hope your recent inaccurate claims are not an attempt to redirect the legislative and media attention off of the real issues facing the Indiana thoroughbred industry...i.e....low purse levels for Indiana bred races at Indiana Downs, ill advised changes to the Indiana bred program (which you actively persue) and the woefully low amount of stalls at Indiana Downs. ITOBA has been the pro-active leader for the Thoroughbred industry the past 18 months and we realize you are not happy about the results of some of our initiatives i.e... purse protection plan efforts. Demonizing and attempted discrediting of ITOBA and its officers through inaccurate accusations won't deter our mission. It only makes us more focused and solidifies our resolve.

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ITOBAs will continue to focus on the real issues and policies that negatively affect our industry and will not allow that focus to be redirected by responding further to demonizing and inaccurate claims. We would be most happy to work with you on the real industry issues in the future.

Sincerely,

Eddie Martin

Executive Director/1st V.P.