



**Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce
Resolution in Support of Limited Slot Machines at Racetracks**

WHEREAS, Sam Houston Race Park, Ltd. is a significant employer with a major impact on the economy of north Harris County; and

WHEREAS, Texas does not permit slot machines that provide monetary prizes to the players but all of the states adjacent to Texas (Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico) permit slot machines within the race tracks located within their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the increased revenue from slot machines in other states has enabled their race parks to substantially increase “purses” for individual races as well as enhance the facilities and operations, giving them a distinct advantage over race tracks located within Texas; and

WHEREAS, the racing industry in Texas is slowly but surely declining as a result of the economic advantages held by the industry in the adjacent states due in part to small purses for winners as well as inability to maintain facilities and more expensive programs in Texas; and

WHEREAS, allowing slot machines limited to the confines of the race tracks located in Texas would allow them to compete on an equal footing with their competitors elsewhere and would provide for Texas needed additional tax revenues. Slot machines in Texas would raise an estimated \$1 billion in additional state tax revenue each year; and

WHEREAS, numerous statewide polls show that a majority of Texans favor bringing slot machines to racetracks and that Texans want the right to vote on the issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce and their members hereby strongly urge the members of the Legislature of the State of Texas and in particular its legislative members from Harris County to actively pursue appropriate legislation enabling the race parks within the State of Texas to operate slot machines on their properties subject to appropriate taxation by the State of Texas.

IN EVIDENCE THEREOF, WITNESS THE SIGNATURES OF THE CHAIRMAN
AND PRESIDENT OF THE GREATER TOMBALL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THIS 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2011.

T.J. Tijerina, Chairman

Bruce E. Hillegeist, President