

September 1, 2015

Water Hay Oats Alliance
Stop Race Day Medication



For Immediate Release

Water Hay Oats Alliance (WHOA) Supporting Member, Jeff Gural announced today that three of the leading Standardbred racetracks he owns and operates - the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, N.J., Tioga Downs in Nichols, N.Y. and Vernon Downs in Vernon, N.Y. - have joined as members to the Coalition for Horseracing Integrity. These newest members add to the growing support for federal legislation to appoint the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) to create and oversee a national program for horseracing in the United States.

Mr. Gural, known for "walking the walk and talking the talk" when it comes to banning drug use at his tracks, becomes the first Standardbred track owner to join efforts spearheaded by the Thoroughbred industry. "Jeff Gural is a true leader. He has demonstrated fierce determination with efforts to abolish the use of performance enhancing drugs at his tracks. All horseracing would be better off if it followed his lead and example." said WHOA Supporting Member Staci Hancock.

"Meadowlands, Tioga Downs and Vernon Downs are all known for having the highest testing standards possible," said Gural. "We currently do our own out of competition testing and surveillance at our expense. We have utilized the Hong Kong Jockey Club Laboratories as well as others, and despite the current efforts of the states we have been able to detect illegal performance enhancing medication in horses entered at our facilities. We believe that national oversight is the only way to ensure that everyone is playing fairly and that our animals are not subject to potentially harmful medications. Our tracks are proud to join the Coalition and we hope that our participation will help broaden these positive reforms to encompass Standardbred horseracing. The implementation of uniform policies throughout the U.S. and an industry-based, non-governmental solution will only help us grow the popularity and credibility of the sport and ultimately establish a level playing field across the board."

"H.R. 3084, The Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act (THIA) presents an opportunity to come together for the betterment of our sport and the protection of our horses. I'm optimistic that we can work together with all parties in an

effort that can be supported by everyone who cares about this issue." continued Gural.

The bill, introduced in July 2015 to the House of Representatives by Congressmen Andy Barr (R-KY) and Paul Tonko (D-NY), will direct the non-governmental, non-profit U.S. Anti-Doping Agency to create an independent, racing-specific, non-governmental and non-profit organization to work collaboratively with state racing commissions and their respective staff members throughout the country.

Jeff Gural is the CEO of American Racing and Entertainment, LLC and chairman of commercial real estate firm Newmark Grubb Knight Frank. He is a longtime proponent of medication reform and enhanced drug testing in American horseracing. He has been a Supporting Member of WHOA since March of 2014.

The Coalition - whose membership also includes the Water Hay Oats Alliance, the Breeders' Cup Ltd., the Humane Society of the United States, the Humane Society Veterinary Medicine Association, The Jockey Club, the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, the Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders - supports the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015.

Learn more about the Water Hay Oats Alliance - www.waterhayoatsalliance.com

Contact us: info@waterhayoatsalliance.com

Learn more about the Coalition for Horseracing Integrity - www.horseracingintegrity.com

The Water Hay Oats Alliance (WHOA) is a grassroots movement of like-minded individuals who support the passage of federal legislation to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in the sport of horse racing. The appointment of an independent anti-doping program run by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) will solve the problem of widespread drug use in American racing and put U.S. racing jurisdictions in step with international standards. Doping destroys public confidence in racing, defrauds the betting fan, weakens the genetic pool and, most importantly, puts the life and limb of our equine athletes and their jockeys at risk. It is obvious that after years of committee review and discussion, America's racing industry cannot police itself by eliminating the proliferation of performance enhancing drugs in our sport, nor does it possess the power to adequately punish the purveyors of these drugs.