

JOINT LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON FY2024 EXECUTIVE BUDGET: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 9, 2023

Testimony of New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association Executive Director, Will Alempijevic and New York Thoroughbred Breeders Association Executive Director, Najja Thompson on behalf of the We Are NY Horse Racing Coalition

To the Chairs and Members of the Joint Fiscal Committees:

We are writing to you today as co-founders and Executive Committee Members of **We Are NY Horse Racing**, a coalition of small businesses, labor unions, non-profits, and trade associations that recognize the importance of horse racing to the New York State economy.

Together, our organizations and the members of our coalition represent New Yorkers from up and down — and all across — the state who understand that horse racing is a critical engine for our economy. The truth horse racing runs through every corner of our state, from the farmhands that work on hundreds of thoroughbred breeding farms in nearly every county of New York; to the owners and trainers who race at Saratoga, Aqueduct, and Belmont; to the carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters, and operating engineers that keep the tracks functioning; to the servers, cooks, bellboys, and other staff at hotels and restaurants that rely on the tourists who flock to horse racing tracks.

On behalf of these thousands of New Yorkers, we write to showcase our strong support for the project to modernize Belmont Park.

Altogether, the coalition has secured support from over 65 organizations for this project. The list includes labor unions, small businesses, nonprofits, trade associations, and business leaders. What brings them together is their understanding of how important the project to modernize Belmont Park is. This project would ensure horse racing has a strong future downstate, provide a boost to small businesses across New York, and safeguard the sport's immense impact in Saratoga for years to come.

To ensure our coalition's voices are heard, we are submitting as part of our testimony the following attached documents:

- Letters of support for the Belmont Modernization project from:
 - The Enterprise Association of Steamfitters Local 638;
 - The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 25;
 - The North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 290;
 - The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 30;
 - The Plumbers Local Union 200;

- The Long Island Association;
- The Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and
- Over one dozen local businesses in Saratoga Springs.
- A memo outlining the extensive list of groups that support the Belmont Park modernization project.

We strongly urge you to support this project.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

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Enterprise Association of Steamfitters Local Union 638

STEAM, HOT WATER, HYDRAULIC, SPRINKLER, PNEUMATIC TUBE, COMPRESSED AIR, ICE MACHINE, AIR CONDITIONING AND GENERAL PIPE FITTERS OF NEW YORK AND LONG ISLAND, A.F.L.-C.I.O.

STEAMFITTERS LOCAL UNION 638 OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION

January 20, 2023

Gov. Kathy Hochul Executive Chamber Albany, NY 12224

Governor Hochul:

We write on behalf of the 9,400 members of Steamfitters Local Union 638 as well as the several members working at Belmont Park on Long Island to thank you for your support of horse racing and urge you to include the Belmont modernization project in the upcoming State Budget. This project is an urgent economic development imperative that would boost the state's economy, create thousands of union construction jobs for our brothers and sisters in the building and constructions trades, and secure the future of horse racing for generations to come.

Belmont Park has long been a jewel on Long Island, known the world over as the host for the third leg of the Triple Crown. But, built in 1905 and last upgraded in 1968, Belmont is also one of the oldest sporting facilities in the country — and its age is showing. Due to Belmont Park's deteriorating condition, absence of modern hospitality offerings, and lack of winterization, major events like the Breeders' Cup have chosen to abandon New York State.

The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA), however, has a plan to transform Belmont into the new, modern facility that horse racing fans and our members deserve. This \$455 million project requires support from Albany for state-backed bonds but would be funded entirely by NYRA and would not use any taxpayer funds.

Importantly, the project would generate \$1 billion in construction-related economic impact and create 3,700 construction jobs. NYRA has a long history of working with organized labor and has committed to ensuring that union members are employed building a new Belmont Park, as they are on all NYRA construction projects. Once complete, the facility would create a recurring \$155 million in annual economic impact for the region and sustain 740 new full time jobs. A modernized Belmont Park would also strengthen the sport of horse racing across the state, ensuring the security of our members' jobs at Belmont for years to come.

We urge you to stand with organized labor and include the project to modernize Belmont Park in the state budget.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mulligan Business Manager

www.steamfitters638.org

27-08 40th Avenue, 4th Floor Long Island City, N.Y. 11101

Office: (718) 392-3420 Finances: (718) 392-4074 Fax: (718) 392-3855

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OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS Nassau-Suffolk Counties

January 20, 2023

Gov. Kathy Hochul Executive Chamber NY State Capital Building Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

My Name is Kevin Casey I am the Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #25. IBEW Local 25 represents approximately three thousand working families on Long Island, specifically Nassau and Suffolk County. Thank you for your continued support of the horse racing industry here on Long Island at Belmont Park. IBEW Local 25 has had the good fortune to employ hundreds of members throughout the years at Belmont Park on Long Island and would ask you to include the Belmont modernization project in the upcoming State Budget. This project is an urgent economic development that would boost the state's economy, create thousands of union construction jobs for our Brothers and Sisters in the Building and Constructions Trades Council, while securing the future of horse racing for generations to come.

Belmont Park has long been a jewel on Long Island, known the world over as the host for the third leg of the Triple Crown. But, built in 1905 and last upgraded in 1968, Belmont is also one of the oldest sporting facilities in the country — and its age is showing. Due to Belmont Park's deteriorating condition, absence of modern hospitality offerings, and lack of winterization, major events like the Breeders' Cup have chosen to abandon New York State.

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Once again IBEW Local 25 urges you to include the project to modernize Belmont Park in the state budget. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Kuun B

Kevin Casev

Business Manager, IBEW Local 25

KBC/es

NORTH ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

Joseph Byrne Executive Secretary Treasurer



William Banfield Assistant to the Executive Secretary Treasurer

January 20, 2023

Gov. Kathy Hochul Executive Chamber Albany, NY 12224

Governor Hochul:

We write on behalf of the 1,700 members of Carpenters Local Union 290 to thank you for your support of horse racing and urge you to include the Belmont modernization project in the upcoming State Budget. This project is an urgent economic development imperative that would boost the state's economy, create thousands of union construction jobs for our brothers and sisters in the building and constructions trades, and secure the future of horse racing for generations to come.

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The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA), however, has a plan to transform Belmont into the new, modern facility that horse racing fans and our members deserve. This \$455 million project requires support from Albany for state-backed bonds but would be funded entirely by NYRA and would not use any taxpayer funds.

Importantly, the project would generate \$1 billion in construction-related economic impact and create 3,700 construction jobs. NYRA has a long history of working with organized labor and has committed to ensuring that union members are employed building a new Belmont Park, as they are on all NYRA construction projects. Once complete, the facility would create a recurring \$155 million in annual economic impact for the region and sustain 740 new full-time jobs. A modernized Belmont Park would also strengthen the sport of horse racing across the state, ensuring the security of our members' jobs at Belmont for years to come.

We urge you to stand with organized labor and include the project to modernize Belmont Park in the state budget.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Anthony Villa

Business Manager/President

North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Local 290

631-952-0808 ext. 8000

Anthony Villa

avilla@nasrcc.org

INTERNATIONAL UNION of OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 30

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO



Main Office: 16-16 Whitestone Expressway | Whitestone, New York 11357 T: (718) 847-8484 | F: (718) 805-2172

Connecticut Office: 391 Norwich-Westerly Road | North Stonington, Connecticut 06359

T: (860) 245-4226 | F: (860) 245-4229

January 20, 2023

Gov. Kathy Hochul Executive Chamber Albany, NY 12224

Governor Hochul:

We write on behalf of the 6 members of I.U.O.E. Local 30 who work at Belmont Park on Long Island to thank you for your support of horse racing and urge you to include the Belmont modernization project in the upcoming State Budget. This project is an urgent economic development imperative that would boost the state's economy, create thousands of union construction jobs for our brothers and sisters in the building and constructions trades, and secure the future of horse racing for generations to come.

Belmont Park has long been a jewel on Long Island, known the world over as the host for the third leg of the Triple Crown. But, built in 1905 and last upgraded in 1968, Belmont is also one of the oldest sporting facilities in the country — and its age is showing. Due to Belmont Park's deteriorating condition, absence of modern hospitality offerings, and lack of winterization, major events like the Breeders' Cup have chosen to abandon New York State.

The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA), however, has a plan to transform Belmont into the new, modern facility that horse racing fans and our members deserve. This \$455 million project requires support from Albany for state-backed bonds but would be funded entirely by NYRA and would not use any taxpayer funds.

Importantly, the project would generate \$1 billion in construction-related economic impact and create 3,700 construction jobs. NYRA has a long history of working with organized labor and has committed to ensuring that union members are employed building a new Belmont Park, as they are on all NYRA construction projects. Once complete, the facility would create a recurring \$155 million in annual economic impact for the region and sustain 740 new full time jobs. A modernized Belmont Park would also strengthen the sport of horse racing across the state, ensuring the security of our members' jobs at Belmont for years to come.

We urge you to stand with organized labor and include the project to modernize Belmont Park in the state budget.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

William M. Lynn /

Business Manager & Financial Secretary

PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION No. 200

OF THE

RICHARD P. BROOKS Business Manager Fin, Sec./Treasurer

UNITED ASSOCIATON OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

ED TEDLA Organizer JAY MARELLI

MARIO MATTERA Business Agent

2123 5TH AVENUE, RONKONKOMA, N.Y. 11779 (631) 981-2158

PAUL MASON

JOE SQUICCIARINI Business Agent

Email: rpbrooks@plu200union.us

EDWARD YOUNG Rec. Secretary

January 20th, 2023

Gov. Kathy Hochul Executive Chamber Albany, NY 12224

Governor Hochul:

We write on behalf of the 5 members of Plumbers Local Union #200 who work at Belmont Park on Long Island to thank you for your support of horse racing and urge you to include the Belmont modernization project in the upcoming State Budget. This project is an urgent economic development imperative that would boost the state's economy, create thousands of union construction jobs for our brothers and sisters in the building and constructions trades, and secure the future of horse racing for generations to come.

Belmont Park has long been a jewel on Long Island, known the world over as the host for the third leg of the Triple Crown. But, built in 1905 and last upgraded in 1968, Belmont is also one of the oldest sporting facilities in the country — and its age is showing. Due to Belmont Park's deteriorating condition, absence of modern hospitality offerings, and lack of winterization, major events like the Breeders' Cup have chosen to abandon New York State.

The New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA), however, has a plan to transform Belmont into the new, modern facility that horse racing fans and our members deserve. This \$455 million project requires support from Albany for state-backed bonds but would be funded entirely by NYRA and would not use any taxpayer funds.

Importantly, the project would generate \$1 billion in construction-related economic impact and create 3,700 construction jobs. NYRA has a long history of working with organized labor and has committed to ensuring that union members are employed building a new Belmont Park, as they are on all NYRA construction projects. Once





PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION No. 200

OF THE

RICHARD P BROOKS UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE Business Manager PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA Fin. Sec./Treasurer

Organizer JAY MARELLI

FD TEDLA

President

PAUL MASON Vice President

EDWARD YOUNG Rec. Secretary

MARIO MATTERA **Business Agent**

JOE SQUICCIARINI **Business Agent**

2123 5TH AVENUE, RONKONKOMA, N.Y. 11779 (631) 981-2158

Email: rpbrooks@plu200union.us

complete, the facility would create a recurring \$155 million in annual economic impact for the region and sustain 740 new full-time jobs. A modernized Belmont Park would also strengthen the sport of horse racing across the state, ensuring the security of our members' jobs at Belmont for years to come.

We urge you to stand with organized labor and include the project to modernize Belmont Park in the state budget.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Richard Brooks,

Business Manager/Financial Sect/Treasurer

Joseph Squicciarini

Business Agent







January 23, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul Governor Executive Chamber The State Capitol Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader New York State Senate Room 907 LOB Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie Speaker New York State Assembly Room 932 LOB Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

The Long Island Association respectfully requests that this year's state budget includes the project to modernize Belmont Park in Nassau County. This project would spur economic growth both on Long Island and throughout the state, boost the surrounding area businesses, and secure the future of horse racing in New York.

Your support for this initiative is crucial. The \$455 million project to modernize Belmont Park, which was built more than a century ago in 1905 and last upgraded in 1968, requires authorization from Albany for state-backed bonds — but it would be funded entirely by the New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA), and would not use any taxpayer funds.

This transformational project could generate approximately \$1 billion in construction-related economic impact and 3,700 construction jobs. Once complete, the new Belmont Park could create a recurring \$155 million in annual economic impact and sustain 740 new full-time jobs.

Horse racing in New York State generates approximately \$3 billion in annual economic activity and sustains 19,000 jobs for New Yorkers — buoying the economy on Long Island and the entire state. Modernizing Belmont would ensure this sport has a future in New York, supporting thousands of families and small businesses.



On Long Island alone, a stronger future for horse racing would mean small businesses would continue to benefit from sport's economic impact — such as the \$10 million in economic activity the Belmont Stakes brings to the county and local communities each year. What's more, other major events like the Breeders' Cup World Championship — thoroughbred horse racing's year-end major event — have committed to return to New York State if Belmont Park is updated. The Breeders' Cup, which has not been hosted here since 2005 due to the poor conditions at Belmont, is estimated to generate a nearly \$100 million economic impact when it returns.

For these reasons, we urge you to include the modernization of Belmont Park in the state budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Cohen

President & CEO

Long Island Association



Est. 1988 January 18, 2023

Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie:

President

Luis Vazquez LIHCC

Secretary

Pilar Delgado Adelante of Suffolk County, Inc

Treasurer

John Osorno Bethpage Federal Credit Union

Board Members

Luis Lopez* *Alante Security Group*

Elizabeth Custodio *M&T Bank*

Xiomara Leto *TD Bank*

* Past Presidents

As the President of the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I am writing this letter in support of including the Belmont Park Redevelopment Project in the upcoming State Budget.

For more than a century, Belmont has been the stage for many of racing's greatest legends. Belmont was constructed in 1905 and last updated in 1968. This project will bring much needed jobs in all areas of business that are still recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The construction related economic impact would generate billions in much need revenue to our local and state economies.

As the only bi-county Chamber of Commerce on Long Island, The Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, understands the needs of our Hispanic and minority small business community and entrepreneurs, and a project of this magnitude would allow small businesses to expand their services, increase employment and add to the overall revitalization of the community for years to come. With the opening of the Belmont Park Long Island Railroad Station, accessibility is improved and would help attract workforce talent to the area.

Horse Racing is an international sport. Modernizing this facility will bring worldwide recognition to New York State and our county and events like the Breeders' Cup, which has not been hosted here since 2005 due to the poor conditions of Belmont, can one again be hosted in New York.

Belmont Park is iconic, unique and a keystone in thoroughbred history in North America and the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the inclusion of this project in the upcoming New York State Budget.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Vazquez, President

Quis H. Vazquez

Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



January 25, 2023

Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie:

We, the undersigned small businesses in Saratoga, are writing to urge you to include the project to Modernize Belmont Park in Nassau County in the upcoming State Budget. This project is an urgent economic development imperative that would boost the state's economy, ensure our businesses are able to continue to flourish, and secure the future of horse racing in New York for generations to come.

Your support for this initiative is crucial. The \$455 million project to modernize Belmont Park, which was built over a century ago in 1905 and last upgraded in 1968, requires authorization from Albany for state-backed bonds — but it would be funded entirely by the New York Racing Association, Inc. (NYRA), and would not use any taxpayer funds.

The construction project — one of the largest in generations — would generate \$1 billion in construction-related economic impact and 3,700 construction jobs. Once complete, the new Belmont Park would create a recurring \$155 million in annual economic impact and sustain 740 new full time jobs.

These numbers show Belmont Park's major economic impact — but they only tell half of the story.

Horse racing in New York State generates \$3 billion in annual economic activity and sustains 19,000 jobs for New Yorkers — buoying the economy in the Capitol Region, on Long Island, and across the Empire State. Modernizing Belmont would ensure this sport has a future in New York, supporting thousands of families and small businesses like ours.

In Saratoga alone, the Race Course attracts over 1 million attendees per year, generating \$240 million in annual revenue for the Capitol Region. In Saratoga, the revenue per available room — a key measure of our hospitality sector's health — rose 128 percent between 2020, when there was no in-person racing, and 2021 when the Saratoga Race Course was once again open to the public. And our county's sales tax revenue increased nearly 26% last year, in large part due to the tourism boost from horse racing.

Modernizing Belmont Park enjoys supermajority support (68%) across the state because New Yorkers understand the positive impact horse racing has on the Empire State, on our economy, and on small businesses.

As small business owners and supporters, we ask you to listen to your constituents and support modernizing Belmont Park by including this critical project in the state budget.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bambara, VP, DZ Restaurants, Inc.

Marianne Barker, President, Impressions of Saratoga, Inc.

Thomas Bellhouse, EVP, West Point Thoroughbreds

Carmine DeCrescente, VP, DeCrescente Distributing Company

Leslie DiCarlo, Innkeeper/Owner, The Springwater Bed & Breakfast

Dan Fortier, General Manager, Embassy Suites by Hilton Saratoga Springs

Megan Hennessey, Director of Events & Programs, Saratoga Automobile Museum

Matt Jones, Attorney at Law, Jones Steves LLP

Chad Kiesow, SVP, Stewart's Shops Corp

Darryl Leggieri, President, Discover Saratoga

Ryan McFadden, Owner, Henry Street Taproom

Tom Roohan, Broker – Owner, Roohan Realty

Daniel Shilling, General Manager, The Hamton Inn & Suites by Hilton Saratoga Springs NY

Brian Straughter, President, Turf Hotels

Stephen Sullivan, President, Olde Bryan Inn

Kevin Tuohy, General Manager, Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs, NY

Maddy Zanetti, Owner, the Dark Horse Mercantile



MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

From: We Are NY Horse Racing Coalition

RE: Support for the Belmont Park Modernization Project

The proposed project to modernize Belmont Park on Long Island is a top economic development priority for New York State.

This project is expected to generate immense economic benefits, including \$1 billion in construction-related economic impact and 3,700 construction jobs. In addition, it would create a recurring \$155 million in annual economic impact upon completion and sustain 740 new full time jobs. These benefits would come at no cost to taxpayers and would help secure the future of horse racing in New York State, which generates \$3 billion in annual economic activity and sustains 19,000 jobs for New Yorkers — buoying the economy on Long Island, in the Capitol Region, and across the Empire State.

These statewide economic impacts explain why modernizing Belmont Park has received supermajority support (68%) from voters across the state and enjoys a shocking 75% support on Long Island.

A non-exhaustive list of 67 groups that support the project to Modernize Belmont Park is below.

Organized Labor

- The Building and Construction Trades Council of Nassau & Suffolk Counties, AFL-CIO
- New York City and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters
- North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
- New York State Laborers' Organizing Fund
- DC9 New York (District Council 9, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades)
- Enterprise Association of Steamfitters Local 638
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 25
- North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters Local 290
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local 30\

Plumbers Local Union 200

Business and Tourism Leaders

- The Business Council of New York State
- Long Island Association (LIA)
- Long Island Builders Institute
- Queens Chamber of Commerce
- Elmont Chamber of Commerce
- Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce
- Saratoga Springs Downtown Business Association
- Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
- Long Island Contractors Association
- Discover Saratoga
- Farm Bureau New York
- Adirondack Trust Company

Local Governments and Non-Profits

- The Village of Floral Park
- The Village of South Floral Park
- The City of Saratoga Springs N.Y. Incorporated
- Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood, NY
- BCCA (Belmont Child Care Association, Inc.)
- Gateway Youth Outreach
- NY Racetrack Chaplaincy

Horse Racing Leaders

- The Breeders' Cup Limited
- National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame
- New York Racing Association (NYRA)
- New York Thoroughbred Breeders Association (NYTB)
- New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association (NYTHA)
- Finger Lakes HBPA

New York Businesses

- U.S. Lumber
- Stewart's Shops Corp
- Allan Briteway electrical contractors, inc.
- DZ Restaurants, Saratoga
- DeCrescente Distributing Company
- Embassy Suites by Hilton Saratoga Springs
- Fasig-Tipton
- Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs
- The Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Saratoga Springs
- Henry Street Taproom
- IRV & VIC Sportswear
- Impressions of Saratoga, Inc.
- Jones Steves LLP
- Malta Farm + Garden
- New Vocations
- Blue Chip Farms
- BOND Racing Stables
- Capital Off Track Betting
- Catskill OTB
- Old Friends Equine
- Olde Bryan Inn
- Preferred Equine
- Roohan Realty
- Saratoga Casino and Hotel
- Saratoga Automobile Museum
- Song Hill Thoroughbreds
- Spring Water Bed & Breakfast
- Tattersalls
- Thorobreds Feed Sales
- Turf Hotels
- West Point Thoroughbreds
- Horse Hook

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