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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS KUWIK & PEOPLES

**RE: OPPOSITION TO WESTERN REGIONAL OTB'S PURCHASE
OF BATAVIA DOWNS**

WHEREAS, For years both Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs struggled financially in a market that could not support two standardbred racetracks, and

WHEREAS, When Batavia Downs closed last year, Buffalo Raceway took a risk in picking up most of the available race dates in an effort to keep horse racing a viable venture in the area, and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Raceway has managed some degree of financial success since the closing of Batavia Downs, providing an indicator that, with only one area track, horse racing can still be successful in our community, and

WHEREAS, This success may now be jeopardized by the potential reopening of Batavia Downs under the ownership of Western Region Off Track Betting (WROTB), a governmental entity, and

WHEREAS, State legislation has been introduced in the Assembly (A.09426) and the Senate (S.07107) that would allow WROTB to make said purchase, and

WHEREAS, The concept of a governmentally controlled racetrack in direct competition with private business in a marketplace that has proven two tracks cannot thrive and survive is contrary to this Honorable Body's record of fostering positive economic development in our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Erie County Legislature does hereby reaffirm its commitment to fostering a positive climate for economic development in our region, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body does hereby state its opposition to Western Region Off Track Betting's attempt to purchase Batavia Downs on the grounds that such action would involve government's competition with private business in the field of standardbred horseracing, an action contrary to efforts undertaken to make our region and state more friendly to private enterprise, and be it further

RESOLVED, That for the aforementioned reasons, this Honorable Body does hereby memorialize the New York State Legislature and New York State Governor George Pataki to deny Western Region Off Track Betting's request to purchase Batavia Downs, and be it further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this resolution be sent to the local delegation of the New York State Legislature, New York State Governor George Pataki, Town of Hamburg Supervisor Patrick Hoak, and to Betty B. Newell, President and CEO, Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

EDWARD J. KUWIK

CRYSTAL D. PEOPLES

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution.