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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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STATE SENATE CONFIRMS AMERMAN APPOINTMENT

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Senate voted 32-2 on July 16 to confirm the appointment of John Amerman to the California Horse Racing Board.

Amerman, who was appointed to the Board last year by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to a term that expires January 1, 2010, expressed his appreciation for the Senate's nearly unanimous endorsement and recommitted himself to working to improve the California horse-racing industry.

"I am excited about serving on the California Horse Racing Board," said Amerman. "I plan to dedicate my full energies toward helping California horse racing achieve a greater level of prominence. With its current leadership, this Board has the courage, the commitment, and the insight to take the necessary steps to make California the model racing jurisdiction in the United States."

Amerman, who served as chairman and CEO of Mattel Inc, the global leader in toy manufacturing, for a total of 11 years until his retirement in 1997, has spent the last 12 years building a successful thoroughbred racing and breeding operation, while devoting much of his time and resources to the betterment of horse racing.

Amerman is a trustee of Breeders' Cup Limited and a member of the Board of Stewards of the Jockey Club, the Executive Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, and the American Graded Stakes Committee. In addition, he serves on the Board of the Winners Foundation. Formerly, he served on the boards of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and Thoroughbred Owners of California.

Amerman and his wife, Jerry, are tireless advocates for the health and safety of racehorses. He serves as a director for Tranquility Farms, an organization committed to the care and adoption of racehorses after their retirement. They have supported CERF and donated land to the Pegasus Foundation, two other equine retirement facilities.

And during his first year as a racing commissioner, Amerman has used sound reasoning, firm convictions, and strong business instincts to help deal effectively with a number of complicated issues critical to the future of horse racing, earning the respect of his colleagues in the process.

"One of the benefits of serving on the Board is having the opportunity to work alongside someone like John Amerman," said CHRB Chairman Richard B. Shapiro. "The residents of California are fortunate that a person with his experience, with his commitment, has agreed to serve the public interest."

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