



LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Our districts are the proud home to Lebanon Valley Speedway, a half-mile high-banked clay oval located halfway between Albany and Pittsfield, Massachusetts. As you may be aware, Lebanon Valley Speedway is one of the premier racetracks in the United States drawing tens of thousands of racing enthusiasts annually, showcasing some of the very best in auto racing excitement to a passionate fan base.

We write to share a recent request from Howard Commander, owner, and promoter of Lebanon Valley Speedway, asking for consideration from New York State for his business to help meet the evolving needs of racers. Specifically, Mr. Commander asked for our assistance in securing a waiver for Lebanon Valley Speedway so local racers may test and tune their cars at the raceway while your New York on PAUSE Executive Order remains in effect until May 15.

It is important to note that Lebanon Valley Speedway has taken every practical precaution necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic, following all state guidelines and regulations. In fact, Mr. Commander has already canceled events, and seen events canceled, due to Coronavirus pandemic. These cancelations have already imposed serious and significant financial burdens on the raceway, which operates on a seasonal basis.

Mr. Commander genuinely wants to help the car enthusiasts that work on the cars all winter be able to tune their vehicles at the track and keep interest among the fan base. As you may be aware, Lebanon Valley Speedway is a large, outdoor venue that could easily, and safely, accommodate car enthusiasts working on their cars in a manner that's fully in keeping with necessary social distancing protocols so important during this difficult time.

As we begin to enter the next and necessary structured phases of re-opening New York, as we have called for this past weekend, we ask that Empire State Development agrees to Lebanon Valley Speedway's request that racers be able to test and tune their cars at this beloved outdoor raceway. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

Jake Ashby
Member of Assembly, 107th District