

Beth Reiley & Mark Hass,

I am writing to you in regards to Senate Bill 835.

I am involved in the Horse and Cattle Industry as well as my family and many in our community. I am disappointed in such a Bill. The reason why we have lawmakers has gone astray in too many ways and this Bill proves to be another one of those well meaning but misdirected attempts to interfere with the private citizen and our rights and freedoms. There are so many places where time attention is needed in helping better our communities, schools, families, State, & Country. Why are you and other lawmakers directing your efforts and the efforts of others on issues that don't need another law to regulate it? This isn't the first attempt at such a law and the continued effort to take away the rights of others because you and others don't agree with them is not your job as a lawmaker. If you would take a minute to evaluate the other side of this issue I would hope that you might change your mind at where your job as an elected office should really be focused.

I feel that this Bill is an issue of opinion and as such should not be allowed to become a law. You may feel that horses need to be protected and you are their protector. I feel that this is no different than if I wanted to make a law, using my personal opinion, to say that football because of the violent nature and concussions or skate boarding because of its stunts and jumps or having indoor pets because they are an animal and should live outdoors and they should all be unlawful. I know that all may sound a little strange but that is my opinion and I would like you to help me sponsor a Bill to outlaw these types of events, cultures, people, and pets. I could go off on many other opinions if you are looking for opinions to make laws about but I don't think this is what law making should be about.

This is the same type of opinion that I feel is behind the type of Bill you are sponsoring. It is a Bill of opinion not of another need law to be regulated and enforced. We all have opinions but because my opinion doesn't match yours it shouldn't makes yours a law that interferes with my rights or the rights of others. This type of Bill only opens the door to regulate more not less of an industry and a way of life that you may or may not be involved in or affected by but I am and so are those in my family and community.

The horse roping issue is as much an issue about the animal as it is about a culture. The culture that you are trying to regulate is one that has existed for many centuries. This type of Bill a culture is affected not just a horse. The rights of a minority should not be done away with because of the opinion of you may have against that culture. This type of law just sets precedents for more attacks and laws against this culture. This is doing away with freedoms that we as Americans should be able to live and pursue because we are Americans and our country was founded on Constitutional freedoms and rights. There are many cultures in the country we live in but that doesn't give us the right to infringe on their rights and culture. If you take a closer look at the people not just the action you might find that you are attacking some of the hardest working, tax paying & contributing, God fearing citizens that you'll find in our country. Please be careful between opinion and your duties as a lawmaker and a fellow citizen .

Thank you,
Kristen Shelman
69747 Highway 205
Burns, OR 97720
(541) 573-1018