

Dear Ms. Reiley,

This letter is on opposition to SB835. The summary states that conducting of or participation in rodeos is permitted in state. Prohibits treating rodeos less favorably than other organized exhibitions or events. Creates offense of equine tripping.

Section 2. (2) A person commits the offense of equine tripping if the person intentionally causes an equine to trip or fall, or intentionally ropes or lassos the legs of an equine, for the purposes of a rodeo, contest, exhibition, entertainment or sport or as practice for a rodeo, contest exhibition, entertainment or sport.

During the big loop horse roping events the horse are not intentionally tripped. Rules of one rodeo that can be found at www.biglooprodeo.com and they state: Stock must be standing up when roped by head or front feet. Stock may not be handled roughly at any time, and ropers may be disqualified if in the opinion of the field judge they have intentionally done so. Any stock injury will result in immediate disqualification. Animals used in this event will be inspected and objectionable ones will be eliminated. All ropers must have mule hide or Latigo wrapped saddle horns. (This means no rubber. What happens when you rope an animal and dally with a rubber horn, they come to a quick stopped. With mule hide or Latigo wrapped horns it allows your turns to run. Phrase letting your turn run means that the rope is still slowly feeding out while attached to the animal being roped and the horn of the saddle of the person doing the roping. This causes fewer jerks on the animal when roped.) There are rules in place clearly stating horse need to be standing when roped to get a qualifying time. Each team that enters has to pay an entry fee and also take time off their job and travel long distances to be a contestant. No contestant is going to intentionally trip or intentionally cause their horse to fall and forfeit all monies and the opportunity to win a coveted saddle. Roping a horse correctly takes a lot of finesse that anyone who had not done it would not know what to look for. First you have to swing a 20 foot loop rope, throw it out, catch and then once you do catch the header must then stack on the dallies and let them run so the horse does not choke down that allows the horse to stay standing. I have witnessed a team being disqualified for what the judge considered mistreatment of the horse. Another contestant bought the horse he roped and won the big loop with. That horse he roped is now his every day ranch horse.

Videos can be altered to make any situation look bad, these horse are not "tripped," To rope a horse ensuring it is still standing in order to get a time takes more skill than your typical rodeo team roping which according to this bill would be legal. Those roping the horses use those same skills on the big ranches to handle their herds as they use when roping at the small ranch rodeos. These smaller rodeos have evolved in to a showing of skills, who can handle the animals the best, which is the better hand with a horse or a cow. Here is a question for you, did you happen to watch the NFR last year, and did you notice how Trevor Brazil and Cody Ohl rode the same horse and how the horse responded to each rider differently? It was because Trevor Brazil is more skilled with horse and can get more out of his horse than Cody Ohl. People notice things like that and when you want to be known for your skills with a horse such as Trevor Brazil is, that is what the smaller ranch type rodeo do. Are there times when a horse does fall down or does sustain an injury, yes there are. Those are accidents and they do happen just like any other sport from horse racing to NASCAR and were any of those intentional no. The only difference is both

of those are large money making sports and the smaller ranch rodeo big loop events are small money making sports.

One far reaching but possibility is that this law would open the door for more laws trying to dictate how ranches handle their livestock. This bill could be used to stop anyone roping a horse on their own property for branding or other necessary reasons. The acts that appear to be cruel to out an outsider is not always what it seems. Bills such as this one and ones like it are created by people who misinformed on the traditional ways of ranchers and their practices. This bill could open the door that could have a devastating impact to the rural lifestyles and the traditions that have made up this country.

Sincerely,
Michaele Weis

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