

Sent: Saturday, April 06, 2013 1:41 PM  
Subject: Re: Comments on SB790 and SB385

Re. SB790 and 385, I'd like to urge that our Senators oppose this unnecessary legislation. The issue of "horse tripping" is quite well policed under Oregon's existing laws.

Please listen to one person's account of what such legislation would mean to my small community. I live in a very tiny southeastern Oregon community where cattle ranches are the mainstay of the economy. We must drive at least 45 miles just to reach a town big enough to have a grocery store or bank, our local economy is pretty shaky. The main reason people visit our area is recreation, and our annual rodeo is the only organized event. This rodeo features an event called "Big Loop" in which team ropers capture a horse instead of a steer. The Big Loop event is the main reason most folks come to our rodeo, without it there wouldn't be enough of a rodeo to bother opening the gates.

For our local all-volunteer Ambulance Service, this rodeo is the ONLY fundraising opportunity of the year. It provides us with training, equipment and protective gear which our minimal County budget can't stretch far enough to purchase. Rodeo-weekend-related runs are also an important source of billable income to our nonprofit Ambulance Service, since our sparsely populated area doesn't generate too many medical emergencies the rest of the year. Now this may seem unimportant to those who live elsewhere, but please keep in mind that without our Ambulance Service all travellers on a 120-mile stretch of US Hwy 95 and a 30-some mile stretch of OR Hwy 78 would have NO EMS agencies available for at least an hour in any direction! Would you want your family to sit by the roadside for over an hour if they were involved in a crash? That will be the ultimate outcome if SB790 and 385 are passed.

Thank you,

Kathleen Johnston, EMT  
Jordan Valley, OR