

Union County Cattlemen
61931 Cottonwood Rd.
La Grande, OR 97850
April 7, 2013

Senate Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE Rm 347
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Senate Bill 790/House Bill 2901 and SB 835

Chair Dingfelder and Committee Members:

We are opposed to Section 2 (2) since the current animal cruelty laws are sufficient to protect animals and this bill may interfere with current lawful practices used in horse training, rodeo, ranching and other endeavors that do not injure a horse or other animals. Oregon should remain vigilant in enforcing cruelty laws as they exist today.

Identification of rodeo events as legal in Oregon opens opportunities to regulate these events and sets a precedent to identify legal activities for other events in order to ultimately regulate them in restrictive ways. We suggest your full focus and attention needs to be on the economy, excessive taxes, and regulation. This bill fails to promote jobs, ignores the impacts on local economies, and creates unnecessary government regulations on activities of the citizens. This bill assumes Oregonians cannot take personal responsibility for the welfare of animals and protect them from injury and we disagree. Union County Cattlemen recognize Oregonians have free wills, common sense, and knowledge about matters regarding animal safety under the lawful practices listed above.

We urge a no vote on these bills.

Sincerely,

Union County Cattlemen

Dennis Murchison, President
Jason Beck, Vice-President
Pat Larson, Secretary