

Madam Chairman and Senators:

Thank you for letting me speak to you. I am Vernon Kershner President of the Jordan Valley Rodeo Board. The concerns that I have are in opposition of SB 835, the bill against horse roping.

I call it horse roping, not horse tripping. Horse tripping is a buzz word, trying to make people think that is all we are trying to do is trip the horses. A person roping a horse has to catch the horse around the neck to get control of the horse. Then the front footer catches the horse around the front feet. If you have to catch a horse to brand and castrate them you catch them the same way and then lay them down to work on the horse.

In a rodeo all that is required is to catch the horse by the neck and then catch his front feet. Then the flag is dropped and the horse is released. They are not layed down or tripped, as the general public is lead to believe. This is how untamed horses are worked in real life. It is a tradition and culture that has been around since man began using horses to make America what it is today and it is still done this way on ranches today.

The Jordan Valley Rodeo has very good rules in force on how to handle a horse and not harm him. We have a professional flagger that can and will flag ropers out, if they don't handle their horse right.

The little towns in eastern Oregon don't have a lot going for them. One of their biggest income is from the rodeo. A lot of hard work and long hours is what we have to look forward to and helping the local businesses and community groups with their annual income.

Jordan Valley Rodeo is one of the first rodeos in the spring. After a hard winter of feeding and calving cows, we look forward to the Big Loop Rodeo. We get several thousand people from Oregon, Nevada and Idaho that attend our rodeo. The City park is full of all kinds of western gear that you could think of to buy.

The video and the pictures the Humane Society ^{of} the United States put out on the horse roping showed the horse going down, but not getting up and trotting off, this is very misleading to the public.

If this bill was past it would not only affect the rodeo, but the whole community of Jordan Valley and any other small community that has horse roping.

Thank you.