

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I am Jake Roe. I have been the Mayor of Jordan Valley for the last fifteen years and currently serve as the Vice Chairman of the Jordan Valley School District. I am a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, and am a small business owner. I ask that you oppose Senate Bill 835. It is a causeless bill that would have devastating effects on the economy of our community.

The Big Loop Rodeo brings five to six thousand people to our very remote community in the southeast corner of our state. Not having the Big Loop event at the rodeo would change the uniqueness of the rodeo which would negatively affect the attendance and result in a drastic loss in revenue; likely closing down the rodeo altogether.

The economy of Jordan Valley is based on ranching, mining, and a handful of small businesses. The Big Loop Rodeo brings money in from outside our community which helps keep the local economy healthy. A variety of organizations and businesses in the area benefit from the money brought in by the rodeo.

The Jordan Valley Volunteer Fire Department rents out the city park by the square foot to around 100 vendors who come from all over the United States and other countries to sell high quality, hand made goods used in ranch life and art that you won't find in a store. This fundraiser nets almost \$10,000 annually and makes up 100% of the fundraising for the fire department.

The fire department is not the only community organization to benefit from the rodeo. The Jordan Valley Boosters Club holds a dinner on Saturday night after the rodeo which raises about \$5,000 to fund athletic and academic programs in the schools. The local Lions Club hosts a dance at the high school gym. This is their primary fundraiser of the year allowing them to maintain their building which is used as a community meeting place. The Catholic Church cooks breakfast on Sunday morning bringing in about \$1,000 which gives them the ability to keep their doors open and the lights and heat on.

In addition, local service agencies providing safety and emergency services profit from the rodeo. The Jordan Valley Ambulance EMTs, a volunteer staffed unit that services almost 7,000 square miles, mans a food booth to raise funds they depend on to

cover the costs of training and supplies. The Sheriff's Posse sells food at the park to raise money for search and rescue – an important service which has helped lost motorists, hunters and hikers in our remote area.

Young people in our community benefit as well. The 4-H kids sell programs at the gate. They earn about \$900 to help buy supplies and offset the costs of attending a week-long fair in a town about an hour away. Various school groups such as the FFA, student council and school classes raise funds totally nearly \$12,000 by selling concessions, putting on a breakfast and providing clean up crews after the dance and rodeo. These profits are used to fund field trips, graduation and other school events which are an important part of their school experience.

Finally, the businesses of Jordan Valley stock up on supplies to sell to rodeo goers, and the local restaurants depend on this week to give them a boost after a long, slow winter. The RV Parks and motel fill up, and the gas station has its busiest weekend of the year.

Clearly, the money brought into our local economy by the rodeo has a tremendous impact on the community. Malheur County is one of the poorest counties in Oregon and Jordan Valley is in the most remote part of the county with few opportunities to bring in extra dollars. The rodeo provides critical economic resources along with an event which celebrates our way of life. This kind of pointless legislation has far reaching unintentional consequences that will hurt our community and our county.

I am a mechanic by profession and what I know is fixing things. As representatives of the public, you also have the ability to fix things too. You can oppose this causeless bill full of unintended consequences and help maintain the economic health of an entire community. Please vote no on Senate Bill 835.

Thank you,

Jake Roe