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HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Re: SB 835

Dear Legislators:

While my day job is practicing law, I also breed and train foundation performance Quarter Horses. You know me from my previous attempts at trying to prevent other kinds of foreseeable harm (HB 2520), but today I'm here on behalf of Oregonians who can't speak for themselves, to support SB 835.

Over the last 50,000,000 years, horses have developed reflex responses up to 15X that of our own. They have total recall, independent binocular vision, 150% of our night vision, hearing second only to an elephant, and olfactory sense better than a dog. They can hear your heart beating 15 feet away. Yet with all their superior attributes, once you experience the genuine willingness of a horse to do what you want it to do, and develop that partnership, you have no doubt why horse rustlers used to be hanged.

If it weren't for this magnificent species sharing our space, we wouldn't have the space to share. As Ronald Reagan observed: "There is nothing as good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse." George Washington and many of our founding heroes were master horsemen. You might ask where they got their courage. Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis & Clarke out here, on horseback. Horses did nearly all our work until our opposable thumbs took over to discover merely that oil burns.

Horse tripping for any reason is animal abuse, and has no place in Oregon, or anywhere else. This practice involves roping the front legs of a galloping horse, causing it crash violently into the dirt. This causes horses to suffer a variety of injuries, some of them serious and even life-threatening.

Horses are our partners on this planet. We trust them. They trust us. Taking them off the exquisite tuning forks we call their legs, is abjectly contemptible and an insult to them. I urge you to stand up to this abuse.

Very truly yours,

Steven M. McCarthy, Esq.