



Mexicana Federation of Charrería A. C.
Unión de Asociaciones de Charros del Estado de Oregon
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OPPOSE to SB-835

Dear Senators,

My name is Miguel Serrano, I am the President of the Union of Association of Charros for the State of Oregon.

First, I would like to share with you a bit of history of how I came to be the president of this Association and how I built an association here in the state of Oregon.

I came to Oregon in the year 1994, I was already married and had only my first son with just a few months old. I had many dreams and goals in mind as I came to Oregon; my first goal was for my family to have better options in life, with better schools and a better future as I moved from the southern parts of California. In my other goals of moving to Oregon included a dream of owning a place of my own, a house with enough land and space for me to be able to have horses and teach my family more about my culture, traditions and the way I was raised.

In late 1998, I was able to make one of those dreams come true, I had a property where my family and I had horses in, we were all enthused as it kept on growing, soon after many of my friends and other relatives became more involved in bringing our native traditions and Mexican folkloric here to the state of Oregon.

In 2005, another dream came true. I was able to join a Charro Association from the state of Nevada. Being a Charro for me meant the world. If you were to compare this with other sports or hobbies, I would say that it would be the equivalent of making it to The Masters in Golf, if you are a runner, it would be as big as making it to The Boston Marathon. Being named a Charro finally gave me the recognition and representation of the Art and what a true Talented Mexican Cowboy really is all about.

Only a few years thereafter, I started my own association here in the state of Oregon. I accomplished that by having a Union of 5 Charro Groups and 1 group of Escaramuzas (Association of woman Charras). By having 1 group of Escaramuzas, it met the requirements to form a new Association in a new State through the Mexican Federation of Chareria A. C. which requires for every association to have at least one group of Escaramuzas.

Being the President of a Charro Association is a great prideful achievement that I accomplished with great dedication and hard work. With my role as President of this association, I have many duties that I have to follow and oversee all of my members on a state level to ensure that everyone knows and fully understands our regulations.

Many of the regulations that we follow have to do with the handle and care of the animals that we use for our shows. We take pride in understanding our horses and how they understand a Charro. It is a technique that only through the true art of Charrería develops at a young age until it's mastered and proved to an association at our events and only until then, one is declared a True Charro.

Within these requirements that a Charro need to follow, are demonstrations of technique and forms of the best appropriate way to handle the animal to ensure that the animal is not hurt at any one of our events. Our events are mostly of family and friends gathering to compete at state level with other associations out of state. If a competitor or participant shows aggressive handling or lack of care for the animal, he is disqualified and banned from our Association. There are competitors of all ages, and women Charras that are called Escaramuzas also compete with other Escaramuzas for best performance.

I truly believe that we are doing a great thing for our community by having these events and having our children involved keeps families more united and kids off the streets. We as Charros oppose this new SB-835 as it will incur more fees and penalties for our associations. On behalf of my Association of Charros we ask you to reject this new proposed SB-835 or at the very least allow our events and association to continue and do not penalized or restrict the abuse and maltreatment of animals as we do in our association.

Sincerely,



Miguel Serrano

President for the Union and Association of Charros for the State of Oregon.