

Toby de la Torre

Re: SB 835, Horse tripping bill

On behalf of the Charro organizations of Oregon
and the United States of America.

Dear honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The Charro Community of Oregon and the United States oppose the wording of SB 835 because "Reasonable roping of the legs of horses" would become illegal in all types of rodeo. We do ask however, that you consider a reasonable amendment to the bill. This bill has become a anti roping and anti rodeo bill, instead of the original intention to eliminate the intentional tripping of horses.

The criminalization/elimination of reasonable roping of the legs of horses would devastate the livelihood and sustainability of several rodeo organizations. Perhaps modified rules and amendments to roping competition would suffice.

It is very likely that any roping of animals legs would be arguable and lead to many more attempts on legislation.

Please remember the fact that livestock, dogs and birds have historically been used for service and human benefit without a choice. Horses and others were used in postal service, military, law enforcement, farming, ranching, entertainment and sport for centuries. Not even humans get to choose if they are involved in war or law enforcement consequences.

U.S. Armed forces and tax payers fought and pay taxes for human freedom, rights and safety, I doubt that it is for the rights of animals or activists to trample on our freedom and right to pursue happiness.

Rough stock is somewhat different than domesticated pets. It seems odd that we would need to ask them for permission to reasonably benefit from them. The cow and much less a chicken do not dictate what kind of steak or cheese will be produced or how they will be reasonably used.

We believe criminal acts should be handled on a case by case basis. *Please Consider Nevada's decisions*

Without amendments allowing the reasonable roping of horses legs, SB 835 will render rodeo unsustainable for many organizers, and prohibit livestock contractors and vendors etc., from making a living. The prohibition of roping the legs of horses in official competition would end eligibility for competitors to compete in national and international competition, causing unfair business practices and do exactly the opposite of the claims.

Thank you, Toby D.

Regarding Mexican Rodeo/charreadas

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION

February 22, 2011

The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder, Chair
Oregon Senate on Environment and Natural Resources Committee
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Dingfelder and Committee Members:

On behalf of more than 5,000 members of the American Quarter Horse Association, I am writing to express AQHA's and the Oregon Quarter Horse Association's opposition to Senate Bill 613. Both AQHA and OQHA strongly believe this is an unnecessary piece of legislation veiled by animal rights activists as a bill to protect horses.

The American Quarter Horse Association and its affiliate the Oregon Quarter Horse Association are strongly dedicated to the welfare of all horses and all other animals used in competition. In fact, the welfare of the American Quarter Horse is paramount to all other considerations; and the continual development of procedures that ensure humane treatment of the breed and *of all other horses and all animals* involved with AQHA events supersedes all other concerns.

That stated, SB613 is nothing but an assault by the Humane Society of the United States to limit the legitimate sport of rodeo and ultimately other equine competitions.

Despite claims that "horse tripping" in Oregon is commonplace, the fact is it is non-existent, making this legislation superfluous thus wasting the valuable time of the Oregon Senate at a time when members can least afford that distraction.

The horse industry in Oregon is climbing out of one of the most difficult times ever experienced. Pointless laws disguised as attempts to protect the very animal to which we are all dedicated only create a greater burden and hardship on the people hardest hit by the economic downturn.

Senators, members of AQHA and OQHA believe horses should be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion, which is why they supported a voluntary ban on "horse tripping" more than 15 years ago. These same members do not need government regulations allegedly designed to clean up an industry that has already established stringent rules designed to protect its equine participants.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION



Tom Persechino
Executive Director
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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to acknowledge and recognize the sport of Charrería and Mexican Rodeo as a recognized humane sport between cattle and horseman. The Charrería and Mexican Rodeo have been maligned such as the American Rodeo has been maligned for the mistreatment of animals. These accusations of abuse and cruelty to animals are unfounded, derogatory and inflammatory to the Hispanic community and the Charrería Heritage at large.

This is a violation of their 2nd Amendment rights as citizens of the United States of America for personal liberties and pursuit of happiness. They have been falsely accused time and time again for abusing their animals.


I, as a veterinarian, have kept the Hispanic community aware of anything that might be a potential mistreatment of their animals; both their cattle and horses. They do not abuse their animals because their animal's welfare is in their best interest. They are totally willing to adapt to any legislation that is presented to them; even when it involves changing events that they have been doing for years. For example; when it was said that it was inhumane to have a horse tripped with a rope; they then changed the event to involve a breakaway rope, so the animal does not fall to the ground. Thereby fulfilling the artistic ability to still rope the animal's front feet but not hurt the animal in any way.

The Hispanic communities are proud of their Heritage just as the Western cowboys are proud of their Heritage. In real life there are many places where animals can only be captured by roping them. The Tailing event is one of which was derived from chasing animals in the wild in a very brushy area where they could not be roped by the neck. And this was a technique that was found to be satisfactory for stopping the animal's forward pursuit and allowing them to be captured and corralled for the Mexican Rancher.

This method of restraint is no different than roping an animal by the neck or bulldogging the animal and twisting the neck. I'm sure that none of these are pleasant but they are no different than having a dog on a leash and having to jerk on him; or having a cat imprisoned in a cage for a long period of time. This is the way animals are cared for and it is much more humane here in the United States than anywhere else in the world. I feel these derogatory remarks are an encroachment on the welfare and the general well-being of this activity and to the Hispanic community at large.

Again I reaffirm that these animals are not being mistreated because it is in the owners best interest that these animals stay healthy and well cared for. I find that the animals are in excellent condition in the Charrería's that I have been involved in. The Hispanic people recognize that they are in the public eye and they want to make sure that there is no abuse occurring and that their animals are being cared for to the best of their ability.

Thank you,
Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Bradley, D.V.M.

fiber with low tensile strength. The ropes would snap in half leaving the horseman without a rope for other purposes. It was also very difficult for a single rider to return the roped steer to the herd and remove the rope from the horns or neck and still be able to control the herd while the uncooperative steer flailed about. The rider learned to chase the wayward steer, grasp its tail and wrap it around his leg at the ankle. He would then urge his mount forward and out, bringing the steer to the ground and effectively re-direct it. The steer would get up and run back to the herd. It was a perfect fix for a disruptive or wayward steer. It is very similar and achieves the same result as in steer wrestling. The practice was also used to subdue the steer. Charros would brand, trim, vaccinate and even place riding gear on the steer and ride the bull without the use of bucking chutes. In the Charreada the Charro must "salute" and acknowledge judges at the precise moment the steer is released from the Chute. He then must salute the steer by a firm pat on the hind quarters before the ten meter mark., only then can he reach for the tail and attempt to bring the steer down. All of this this must be accomplished within 60 meters after affording the steer a slight head start. The points are granted according to style, distance and grace of execution of event.

Jineteo de toro, bull riding, asks of the charro to manifest his strength and riding skills by staying on the bull until it stops bucking. There is no eight-second ride rule in this event. Extra points are given to the rider if he can dismount with flank strap and rigging in his hand.

Terna en el Ruedo, bull roping, is the fifth *faena del charro*. The aim of the three mounted *caballeros* in the *ruedo*, ring, is to accumulate points by demonstrating intricate displays of skilled roping maneuvers and tricks if you will. The end result is a elaborate lassoing of both the head and hind legs to control the bull. This *faena* is highly effective when branding, castrating, doctoring...

The sixth *faena del charro* is *Jineteo de yegua bruta*, bareback bronc riding. The charro must proof his horsemanship by staying atop the *bareback bronc*, until it stops bucking and can be dismounted safely. Extra points are given to the rider if he can dismount with flank strap and rigging in his hand.

In *Manganas a pie*, Horse catching on foot, the charro positions himself within the ring, at a minimum distance of 4 meters from the inner fence barrier or wall, while an untamed horse is hazed to a run by three mounted teammates. The charro artistically twirls his *reata accumulating points in a display of skill and timing*. He then throws the loop and attempts to catch the horse's forelegs. Any Charro that pulls the rope in an attempt to trip or fell the horse is expelled for one year and fined \$350 dollars. He is punished by this organization in every one of the United States. The individual is also subject to some State Laws and regulations where the practice is illegal.

Manganas a caballo, foreleg horse catching from horseback, follow the same sequence as *Manganas a pie*, except that they're obviously executed from horseback. It takes years of practice before a *caballero* can exhibit a peerless equestrian talent paired with awe-inspiring roping skills. Only the most gifted charros earn the title of *Maestros Manganeadores*. . Any Charro that pulls the rope in an attempt to trip or fell the horse is expelled for one year and fined \$350 dollars. He is punished by this organization in every one of the United States. The



La Unión de Asociaciones de Charros del Estado de Washington

La Unión de Asociaciones de Charros del Estado de Washington por este medio manifestamos nuestro apoyo a los Charros de Oregon y solicitamos se modifique la Propuesta SB835 por que amenaza con prohibir la práctica razonable de la Charrería en el estado de Oregon. Solicitamos atentamente que dicha propuesta especifique que es permitido lazar las patas al ganado equino sin derribarlo.

La Unión de Asociaciones de Charros del Estado Washington mantenemos una estrecha relación con Oregon ya que participamos frecuentemente en diversas actividades deportivas y culturales. Continuamente numerosos grupos de charros, acompañados de sus familias y sus caballos, viajamos de distintos puntos del estado de Washington al estado de Oregon promoviendo las tradiciones mexicanas, el turismo y el crecimiento económico. Sin embargo, en caso de que esta ley se apruebe o no se modifique, nos veremos obligados a suspender nuestras visitas ante la imposibilidad de desarrollar la charrería en Oregon.

Reiteramos nuestro compromiso por el cuidado del ganado equino en la práctica razonable de la charrería y nuestro apoyo a la Unión de Asociaciones de Charros del Estado de Oregon y agradecemos su atención a nuestra carta.

Atentamente

PUA de Washington

Secretario de Washington



Federación Mexicana de Charrería A.C.
Coordinación Nacional de Estados Unidos

Letter for Randy Janssen

July 17, 2012

Dear Mr. Randy Janssen,

This letter is on behalf of the institution of the Federación Mexicana de Charrería. Be advised that this correspondence is authorized and official from Mexico and the United States.

Throughout the course of the past couple of years you and Edward Ramirez have worked to defend the sport of Charrería in the U.S. but have not succeeded in the ideal or desired manner for our institution. We have on various occasions, expressed our position on manganas and legislation to you. Various invitations were extended to you and all presidents of teams this year. These state and national meetings are requirements. You were invited to discuss the future of defense for Charrería in the U.S. Because of these situations in addition to the methods of your work we have come to the conclusion of reaching out to you one last time.

On behalf of the top ranking officials of the Federación Mexicana de Charrería, including Presidente Lic. Jaime Castruita, it is the FMCH's firm decision and position to refrain from an approach to legalize "horsetripping" in manganas in the U.S. We ask that you respect the fact that FMCH has no interest in legalizing tripping or traditional manganas. Your website and correspondence in various forums give a controversial and negative image to our institution. You need to clarify the agenda of legalizehorsetripping.com as your own and against U.S.FMCH principles. For the past few years, the FMCH in the U.S. has made many advances in our relationships with various entities and ask that you refrain from attacking and or criticizing equestrian or rodeo organizations and Tobias de la Torre, who is in fact, the National Director of the Defense Committee for the United States and serves as a consultant for officials in Mexico as well.

Although we appreciate your fundraising, love for charrería and concern, your blatant disrespect for our positions, officers and director have placed your membership in jeopardy. We are in talks with prominent officials and consultants and need to work without interference from individuals such as you and Edward Ramirez.

Comité Defensor de Charrería U.S.A. and its officers and departments will handle the defense of Charrería on an official level. Your suggestions and posts directly conflict with our goals and strategies. We do not tolerate disrespect and insults towards our appointed and or selected leaders.

We ask that you remove official FMCH and members footage and images from your videos and website. We officially request that you prominently post a disclaimer of independence and/or separation from FMCH and CFUSA Inc. on your various internet/activist correspondence and website. Failure to comply to these request will have a negative effect regarding your membership with FMCH.

We have consulted at length with your PUA, various officials, members and past committee members about your conduct. We are making this last effort to work with you civilly and to inform you that although we appreciate your efforts, they are just not the ideal manner of handling the future of Charrería in the U.S. Please consider meeting with us in person or via a phone conference so that we may find a way to co-exist. Failure to respond and comply with our requests may lead to future sanctions from the FMCH and include your destitution from the Federación Mexicana de Charrería.

Atentamente,

Federación Mexicana de Charrería, A.C.
Javier Contreras
Coordinador Nacional de Estados Unidos

Chicago, Illinois

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