

I'm Kenneth Sam Jr., and I am an enrolled member of the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of Nevada and Oregon. Horse roping has been a long time tradition that is a part of our heritage and has been for generations.

We as buckaroo's and I as a Native American take pride in the tradition of roping Horses and would like to preserve the right to pass it on to the next generation. As Native Americans we have already had so much of our traditional and cultural ways taken from us by state and other governments. We have the right, just as all other Americans to pass along our traditions and culture to our children and grandchildren without interference.

Horse roping is not just used in sports and competition. It has been used by the elders for generations to capture and handle wild horses. We use this method for training, doctoring, heard management and care of these magnificent creatures. This practice enables ranchers to better manage the natural resources that we have for all of our livestock.

As a roper, whether in competition or ranching, it does not benefit me in any way to use a method of roping that will harm a horse. We are disqualified if it happens in competition and all the money paid into the competition is forfeited. In the arena of ranching, it would not make sense to intentionally hurt a creature that I intend on either making my own or selling to another rancher. Both scenarios would be a very costly mistake.

The information put forth in this bill is one sided and is not full of facts, but interpretation of information provided. The fact is that the style of horse roping in question is one of the best ways to safely catch a horse without further injury to the horse or the roper and if it was so dangerous to the horse then why has it been practiced for hundreds of years.

The writer of this bill has stated that horse roping is an inhumane act, however what is their alternative? Should we leave the animals to overpopulate and starve to death, catch diseases that we could have prevented, stay injured when they require medical attention? What is the alternative method to handling and caring for them? I would say that the alternative is far more inhumane.