

From: Joan Steelhammer  
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 3:03 PM  
Subject: MESSAGE IN SUPPORT OF SB790

Dear Chair Dingfelder and Committee Members:

I am Joan Steelhammer, founder and president of Equine Outreach, Inc., central Oregon's largest and most reputable horse rescue organization. I am writing to urge you to vote YES on SB 790, the bill to stop horse tripping in Oregon.

Equine Outreach has saved literally hundreds of horses from throughout Oregon, and we count among our supporters people who love horses and also love the tradition and history of American rodeo. Among the horses that we've saved are animals who were used in horse tripping events, and then discarded. These horses are invariably physically and mentally damaged animals, and are extremely difficult to rehabilitate. The process of being chased, harassed, and forced to crash hard into the dirt in front of a screaming crowd leaves them with a deep fear and distrust of people that often is simply impossible to overcome.

Real rodeo fans strongly oppose horse tripping, because it is not sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, and because this cruelty casts mainstream rodeo in a negative light. Protecting horses from this cruelty will bolster the integrity of American rodeo and demonstrate a real commitment to the welfare of rodeo animals. I would note that the St. Paul Rodeo recently announced that it has canceled the so-called "Wild Horse Race," another non-sanctioned event that resulted in the deaths of two horses last summer. I applaud that decision, and hope it signifies that rodeo organizers in Oregon are moving toward preserving the integrity of their support by distancing themselves from events that pose an unreasonable risk of harm to rodeo animals.

For these reasons, I hope you will take a stand to prevent the abuse of horses in Oregon and vote YES on SB 790. Thank you for considering my views, and let me know if you have any questions.

Joan Steelhammer  
Founder and President  
Equine Outreach, Inc.  
Bend, Oregon

**From:** courtney kealey

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 20, 2013 12:00 PM

**To:** Reiley Beth; Lutman Jennifer

**Subject:**

Dear Senator Dingfelder and Members of the Committee:

My name is Courtney Kealy and I am 18 years old. I have always had a connection with horses and I am sickened that people would treat them so poorly in the rodeo sport of horse tripping.

A horse isn't just an animal they are almost like a human being in a way in that they have the ability to pick up on what you are thinking about. Horses are compassionate sensitive creatures and they will do almost anything to please you. If you can build there trust they will go above and beyond for you. In fact, horses are even used in therapy for children, the handicapped and veterans returning from war.

I started riding before I could walk and by the age of sixteen I bought my own horse, Rockette. This past year, I took in two rescue horses to give them a better life and rehabilitate them.

Horses deserve every right to be treated well.

To chase, then rope and bring a thousand pound animal to the ground crashing should not be okay in anyone's eyes. This is not a sport – it's animal abuse.

The people that participate in this sport are not cowboys. They are animal abusers. Cowboys know a horse is a partner and a friend. Cowboys rely on their horse and know that their horse would be there no matter what. You would never see a real cowboy do this to their own horse and real cowboys know that horse tripping is animal abuse.

Horses are very delicate and yes there are a lot of them in this world but it is not okay to treat them this way. Something as simple as a horse sliding wrong in the mud can be damage the animal for rest of its life.

To see someone rope these creatures at a flat out run and bring them to the ground can ruin a horse for the rest of its life or even end its life.

I was horrified to learn that at some local rodeos the sport of horse tripping is a regular event. Horse tripping is cruel, animal abuse and should be banned from all rodeos and ranch work immediately. It is not fair for the animal and its terribly inhumane.

We can do better than this in Oregon. We love our horses and know that horses deserve to be treated well. In the pictures attached you will see me when I first started to ride my horse Jazz, my senior picture with my horse Rockette, Lilly my baby Horse, and the two rescue horses I recently took in.

Horse tripping needs to be stopped. This is my first time engaging in the legislative process, but it was something that I had to do to speak for the horses. They cannot speak for themselves and those of us who love and work with horses know that this terrible abuse needs to stop.

**Please support SB 790.**