

Submitter: Megan Tuck  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of St. Paul, Oregon and grew up in this town of 450 people. My family has lived in the Willamette Valley for generations and was a part of the founding of the St. Paul Rodeo. Throughout my youth I participated in our 4th of July Rodeo by volunteering to scoop poop during the parade, working concession stands, and parking cars. If you've ever been to St. Paul or driven through, you know the rodeo is our town. It means everything to us. Our youth sports program, 4-H, FFA, high school booster club, school district, and civic life all depend on the rodeo to support their activities and enrich the lives of our community.

The language in this bill is vague and allows for an interpretation that would effectively ban rodeo. This not only puts small businesses out of business, but will decimate the small communities in Oregon they support. It would be a grave mistake for the legislature to pass this bill without the necessary exemptions for rodeos. Animals are treated with the highest quality of care, and the rodeo adheres to existing animal welfare statute. If anything, rodeo is a way to teach more people about animal husbandry, raising livestock, and appreciation for our farming and ranching industries.

This log of testimony is littered with letters from folks out of state who have no knowledge of our local contexts and the everyday lives of Oregonians. I urge you to vote NO on this bill and propose amendments that preserve rodeo and the health of the communities and people they support. Thank you.