

Stuart Roberts  
[Sroberts1856@charter.net](mailto:Sroberts1856@charter.net)  
1856 SW Athens Av.  
Pendleton, OR 97801

**RE: Opposition to HB 3214**

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Anderson, and Wallen, members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Stuart Roberts. I am a fifth-generation Oregonian who has resided in Eastern Oregon for most of my life. In December 2020, I retired from 29 years of public service the last eighteen of which were in the position of police chief for the city of Pendleton. Immediately upon retiring, I was hired as the Law Enforcement Risk Management Consultant for Citycounty Insurance Services (CIS) of Oregon. Currently, I am employed as the Security Director for a tribal casino in the greater Pendleton area. I also volunteer as a member of the Board of Directors for the Pendleton Round-Up. My purpose for providing my brief background is to add context to my comments concerning HB 3214.

Over the course of the last thirty-plus years, of government employment, I have attended countless public meetings, managed thousands of events, and participated on numerous Boards/Committees at local, state, and national levels. Two consistent themes drove the conversation and/or action in most of the meetings I chaired, attended, or managed...money and human rights. Although I am not an overly politically minded person, I do pride myself on being humble, honest, and perceptive. I must say, I find the text of HB 3214 to be a veiled attempt to cripple the sport of rodeo, which will have significant economic implications throughout the State of Oregon.

Economic development goes well beyond bricks and mortar. The Pendleton Round-Up for example has been in existence since 1910 earning a reputation worldwide for its history, pageantry, and world-class competition. However, if you really drill down the greatest aspect of the Pendleton Round-Up is the estimated \$50 million dollars it brings to Umatilla County and the city of Pendleton the second full week of September every year. Although some may believe no amount of money justifies the various events that comprise a rodeo competition, the round-up would not be the success it has become without the full support of the 1000-plus volunteers who provide the operational support needed to put on the week-long event. Many civic organizations use the event to earn the dollars necessary to sustain their existence and support their ongoing community action. Vendors come from all over the world to sell their wares. Professional cowboys/cowgirls compete to earn dollars in support of their families. Professional contractors supply services and stock in support of events that draw people to the community. The Pendleton Round-Up Board awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors throughout the county and behalf of the non-profit association.

Those who attend rodeo events throughout Oregon spend money on motels, RV spaces, fuel, groceries, and merchandise. Merchants in Pendleton will tell you that if it were not for the round-up many would not be able to keep their doors open. Aspiring young minds may not be able to attend the college or university of their choice and earn the types of degrees that advance Oregon's vitality.

I ask you...at a time when so many are struggling to make ends meet why would the very body that is entrusted to represent the welfare of its constituents decide to pass legislation knowing has the potential to put people out of work, close doors of businesses in rural communities, and cripple tourism dollars across the state?