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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate recognizes importance of rodeos, bans brutal roping practice

SB 835 outlaws 'horse tripping' and reaffirms that rodeos are a quintessential part of Oregon's identity

SALEM—This morning the Senate voted to reaffirm the importance of rodeos to Oregon's cultural identity and ban the practice commonly known as 'horse tripping', a roping maneuver used in fringe rodeos.

"Horse tripping is the practice of roping the front or hind legs of a horse, causing it to crash into the ground. There's just no denying that this practice is shockingly cruel," said Senator Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), a chief sponsor of Senate Bill 835. "One measure of who we are is how we treat God's creatures. By passing SB 835 today, we are honoring the great tradition of Oregon rodeos while eliminating the brutal practice of horse tripping in our state."

Horse tripping is done intentionally at fringe rodeos, and points are awarded for 'dropping the horse.' These animals typically weigh more than a thousand pounds, and they have a higher center of gravity than steer or calves. The sheer physics of these half-ton creatures, crashing onto the ground from that distance, often causes serious injuries.

At least 11 states have already outlawed horse tripping, including Texas, and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has also banned the practice.

Oregon is home to many rodeos that celebrate the state's roots in cattle herding and cowboys. Many of these rodeos showcase the excellent skills and talents of homegrown athletes that participate in competitions from Saint Paul Rodeo to the Pendleton Round Up. SB 835 includes provisions that reaffirm the 'right to rodeo' and puts rodeos on equal footing with other events and exhibitions.

"As a Senator from rural Eastern Oregon I have appreciated the opportunity to work across the aisle with Senator Hass, an urban Senator, on SB 835. From my perspective the right to rodeo aspect of this bill is a very positive message," said Senator Bill Hansell (R-Athena), a chief sponsor of the bill.

SB 835 passed on a 22-6 vote and will now go to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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