

Submitter: Rhonda Kingsbury

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB771

Dear Committee Chair & Committee members

My name is Rhonda Kingsbury, I am a born and raised Central Oregonian and reside in Powell Butte (Crook County).

I am writing in support of SB771 that would support funding of repairs to rodeo facilities located in rural communities of our state.

My family is immersed in rodeo, both from a spectator and competitor standpoint. Both of my grandfathers were part of the first Paulina Open Rodeo committees helping to create a community annual event supplying stock and working behind the scenes to create and manage the venue that started very humbly with donated ranch land.

I fell in love not only with the sport as something a community could gather around and support in many different capacities from a production standpoint, but I was able to experience rodeo from a competitive side at a young age and the "fever" has never wandered several years later.

Our daughter and son both competed in Pee Wee rodeo, Jr Rodeo, and at the High School level. This was an absolutely amazing experience combining family and friends and something I would not trade. Traveling as a family locked in the pickup for long hours sharing wins and losses, tears and laughter, I believe was instrumental in the formation of raising our children that have become responsible and hard working adults that take pride in themselves and their community.

Our daughter gained a full ride college rodeo scholarship competing in several events at UNLV Las Vegas and was blessed with an absolutely amazing rodeo coach that impacted who she is today still competing under the Women's Professional Rodeo Association in the event of barrel racing. This is rodeo, this is rodeo people and this is something that needs to continue in the fast paced, crazy world we have today.

Fast forward to now traveling to Columbia River Circuit rodeo's with my daughter every season (Oregon is part of this circuit), I am back not competing but watching and supporting from the stands. I see committee's pouring their hearts and souls into their events, donating countless hours, taking time from their normal lives and sometimes their families all year long (yes, it's not just when the actual rodeo occurs) but 12 months out of the year. They typically have very limited budgets and those dollars often times have to be stretched very thin in several areas leaving facility updates on the back burner. This is a concern when are talking about animal safety, spectator safety and the safety of competitors and their horses. Many Oregon community rodeo venues are aged and in need of capital improvements and this bill could provide much needed support to rodeo committee's to modernize and repair existing venue's.

Oregon rodeos have a huge economic connection with local area businesses and also provide a sense of pride and community connection and I believe is the conduit for other opportunity in and out of the rodeo arena. Having access to funding would be huge so that committees are able to access the funding they so desperately need to maintain rodeo grounds at a level to provide safe and enjoyable events.

Please vote to pass SB 771 supporting Oregon Rodeos by providing grant funding needs to rodeos in our state.

Thank you,

Rhonda Kingsbury