



February 22, 2011

The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder, Chair
Oregon Senate on Environment and Natural Resources Committee
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Dingfelder and Committee Members:

On behalf of more than 5,000 members of the American Quarter Horse Association, I am writing to express AQHA's and the Oregon Quarter Horse Association's opposition to Senate Bill 613. Both AQHA and OQHA strongly believe this is an unnecessary piece of legislation veiled by animal rights activists as a bill to protect horses.

The American Quarter Horse Association and its affiliate the Oregon Quarter Horse Association are strongly dedicated to the welfare of all horses and all other animals used in competition. In fact, the welfare of the American Quarter Horse is paramount to all other considerations; and the continual development of procedures that ensure humane treatment of the breed and *of all other horses and all animals* involved with AQHA events supersedes all other concerns.

That stated, SB613 is nothing but an assault by the Humane Society of the United States to limit the legitimate sport of rodeo and ultimately other equine competitions.

Despite claims that "horse tripping" in Oregon is commonplace, the fact is it is non-existent, making this legislation superfluous thus wasting the valuable time of the Oregon Senate at a time when members can least afford that distraction.

The horse industry in Oregon is climbing out of one of the most difficult times ever experienced. Pointless laws disguised as attempts to protect the very animal to which we are all dedicated only create a greater burden and hardship on the people hardest hit by the economic downturn.

Senators, members of AQHA and OQHA believe horses should be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion, which is why they supported a voluntary ban on "horse tripping" more than 15 years ago. These same members do not need government regulations allegedly designed to clean up an industry that has already established stringent rules designed to protect its equine participants.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Persechino". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom Persechino
Executive Director
Breed Integrity & Public Policy