

THE CAVALRY GROUP

Attachment 1

February 14, 2024

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1302, Working Animal Protection Act

Chairman Ricks and Members of the Local Government & Taxation Committee,

My name is Mindy Patterson, president and co-founder of The Cavalry Group, a national member-based company that is in its 15th year working to protect and defend the Constitutional and private property rights of law abiding animal owners and animal-related businesses.

On behalf of our members in Idaho, The Cavalry Group supports SB1302, known as the Working Animal Protection Act.

For the past decade, animal rights organizations have been passing legislative bans through local government entities across the U.S., banning lawful and regulated businesses for no other reason than these businesses do not align with the animal rights ideology. Local legislation banning working animals are destroying jobs and revenue that these law-abiding businesses rely on to care for and feed their working animals. In addition, these businesses that utilize working animals in entertainment, exhibition, education, transportation, and agri-tourism provide wholesome, family activities for citizens across your great state of Idaho.

The Working Animal Protection Act has become law in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas where it has already been put to the test. Just two weeks ago in Dallas, Texas, animal activists from out of state were appearing before the Dallas City Council to urge them to pass an ordinance to ban horse-drawn carriages. Because these activists were from out of state, they were unfamiliar with the fact that the Working Animal Protection Act had passed and was signed into law last year prohibiting the City Council from banning these regulated and lawful horse carriage businesses in Dallas.

Rodeo is currently in the crosshairs of these bans as there are currently ordinances in Los Angeles and San Diego, California to ban rodeo in both cities.

In Oklahoma and Arkansas, the animal rights groups which once regularly protested horse-drawn carriages no longer protest because they know that the Working Animal Protection Act is law and their pleas to ban these lawful businesses have no footing.

These bans on animal exhibition, horse-drawn carriages, rodeo, and agri-tourism are largely pushed by animal rights organizations. While we must certainly take the welfare of animals seriously, there is no reason to ban rodeo, horse-drawn carriages, or animal exhibition in Idaho.

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All of these animal-related businesses are regulated by local, state, and in some cases, by USDA federal licensing under the Animal Welfare Act.

SB1302 does NOT interfere with local laws in place overseeing public health and safety or animal health, welfare, and safety regulations. SB1302 simply states that these businesses which utilize working animals cannot be legislatively banned, outright.

SB1302 is preemptive legislation which will block the banning of law-abiding animal businesses and events utilizing working animals before the animal rights groups show up to introduce their legislation to implement a legislative ban.

It's not a matter of "if," but "when" these groups will attempt to introduce their legislative bans in Idaho.

Accordingly, I hope you will support SB1302 to protect Idaho's thriving agri-tourism businesses which utilize working animals and the iconic western culture that is symbolic and iconic in the state of Idaho.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mindy Patterson
President
The Cavalry Group

The Cavalry Group is a member based company protecting and defending the Constitutional and private property rights of law abiding animal owners and animal-related businesses, nationwide. We defend our members against the onslaught of anti-private property and anti-agriculture animal rights activism in addition to challenging the infiltration of radical animal rights activism in government at the local, state, and federal levels.

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Animal Rights Enacted Local Bans on Exotic Animal Exhibits, Educational Zoos, Elephant Rides, Pony Rides, Petting Zoos, and Horse Drawn Carriages

ARKANSAS:

- City of Eureka Springs (2014): Ban on Circuses with wild or exotic animals.

CALIFORNIA:

- CA SB 1062 (2016): Statewide ban on elephant guide. (Frighteningly similar to the show stick used by FFA and 4-H)
- City of Corona: Ban on exotic animal exhibit.
- City of Huntington Beach: Ban on wild and exotic animals for public entertainment and exhibiting.
- City of Irvine: Ban on performing and exhibiting of wild and exotic animals.
- City of Los Angeles: Ban on elephant guide and banning of exhibition of wild and exotic animals.
- Orange County: Prohibits elephant rides at Orange County Fair.
- City of Oakland: Ban of the elephant guide.
- City of Pasadena: Ban on exhibiting of exotic animals.
- City of Rolling Hills Estates: Ban on exhibiting of exotic animals.
- City of San Francisco: Ban on exotic and performing animals.
- City of West Hollywood: Ban on exotic animal exhibits and performances.
- Griffith Park: Ban on pony rides

COLORADO:

- SB21-135 Statewide ban on traveling animal exhibits.
- City of Boulder: Ban on exotic animal exhibits.

FLORIDA:

- City of Deerfield Beach: Carriage Ban
- City of Hallandale Beach: Elephant guide ban.
- City of Hollywood: Ban of exotic animal exhibiting.
- City of Kenneth City: Carriage Ban.
- Key West: Carriage Ban
- City of Lauderdale Lakes: Ban on elephant guide.
- City of Palm Beach: Carriage Ban.
- City of Panama City Beach: Carriage Ban.
- City of Pompano Beach: Carriage Ban.
- City of Treasure Island: Carriage Ban.

GEORGIA:

- Fulton County: Elephant Guide Ban.

IDAHO: City of Ketchum: Ban on exotic animal exhibits.

ILLINOIS:

- IL SB 1342: Statewide ban on elephants in traveling exhibits.
- Chicago City: Horse Carriage Ban

MAINE:

- City of Portland: Ban on exotic animal exhibiting/performances.

MARYLAND:

- Montgomery County: Prohibits anyone from charging guests a fee to attend an exotic animal exhibit in a traveling act.
- City of Tacoma Park: Ban on exotic animal exhibits.

MASSACHUSETTS:

- City of Braintree: Ban on exhibiting of non-domesticated animals.
- City of Cambridge: Ban on exhibiting of wild and exotic animals.
- Town of Pittsfield: Ban on exhibiting of non-domesticated animals.
- City of Plymouth: Ban on wild/exotic animals in exhibits.
- City of Provincetown: Ban on exhibiting of exotic animals.
- City of Quincy: Ban on exhibit of exotic animals.
- City of Revere: Ban on exhibit of exotic animals.
- City of Somerville: Ban on exhibit of exotic animals.
- City of Weymouth: Ban on circuses and exhibiting of exotic animals.

MICHIGAN:

- Ferndale: Ban on the display or performance of wild or exotic animals.

- MI SB 48: Statewide ban on public contact with bears.

MISSISSIPPI:

- Biloxi: Carriage Ban

MISSOURI:

- Richmond: Ban on display and exhibition of exotic animals.
- LaBelle: Livestock ban in LaBelle city limits.

MONTANA:

- City of Missoula: Ban on exhibiting of exotic animals.

NEVADA:

- Las Vegas: Carriage Ban

- Reno: Carriage Ban

NEW JERSEY:

- S1093/A1923 Statewide ban on exhibition of all animal species not indigenous to N.J.
- Bergen County: Ban on exotic animal exhibits.
- Cumberland County: Ban on exotic animal exhibits.

NEW MEXICO:

- City of Rio Rancho: Ban on traveling exotic exhibitors.

- City of Sante Fe: Carriage Ban

NEW YORK:

- NY SB 2098 & AB 484: Statewide BAN on elephant guide communication tool.
- New York City: Ban of exotic animal exhibiting.
- City of Greenburgh: Ban on entertainment acts or exhibiting of exotic animals.

OHIO:

- OH SB 310: Statewide ban on possession and keeping of "dangerous" wild animals.

OREGON:

- Clatsop County: Ban on Elephant Guide

PENNSYLVANIA:

- City of Pittsburgh: Ban on exotic animal exhibiting.

RHODE ISLAND:

- RI HB 8197: Statewide ban on elephant guide.

VERMONT:

- City of Burlington: Ban on exotic animal exhibiting.

VIRGINIA:

- Richmond: Ban on the elephant guide.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

- City of Broadway Beach: Carriage Ban.

TEXAS:

- Austin: Ban on elephant guide.
- Denton: Carriage Ban

UTAH:

- Salt Lake City: Carriage Ban.

WASHINGTON:

- City of Port Townsend: Ban on animal exhibiting.
- City of Redmond: Ban on exotic animal exhibiting.
- City of Spokane: Ban on elephant guide.

WISCONSIN:

- Dane County: Ban on elephant exhibits.

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