

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: There are already laws in place regarding rodeo equipment and usage in California. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association also has over 70 rules pertaining to the safety of the livestock and contestants. These laws and rules already address spurs, flank straps and electric prod usage. Penal code 596.7 already restricts the use of electric prods, flank straps are fleece lined or soft rope, and sharp spurs are prohibited and locked spurs are prohibited in saddle bronc and bareback events. We take great pride in our rodeo livestock. Our animals are often worth thousands of dollars and are bred for their job as a rodeo athlete. Items such as flank straps are not used to hurt an animal but for the safety of the animal and the rider. Flank straps are lined with fleece and never placed too tightly as the animal will not buck if that is the case. Spurs are not sharp as often indicated and electric prods can only be used in case of an emergency when the chute gate is open and the life of the animal and/or rider is threatened. No one involved in Rodeo or the western industry was consulted by the Los Angeles City Council before they pushed the drafting of the ordinance forward. At least take the opportunity to educate yourselves about the equipment and usage before passing an ordinance. There are a number of businesses that count on the Professional Bull Riding and rodeo related activities at venues like the Staples Center that draw capacity crowds for their business. Those restaurants and businesses that gain income from the economic impact of these events will see their bottom line negatively impacted.