

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Rodeo is about as American of a sport as exists anywhere. Contestants are respectful of our flag, each other and the amazing animals they compete with. Heads bow when the prayer is said and everyone in the stands are invited to join in whatever form is comfortable to them. Our armed forces are usually recognized in opening ceremonies and children are invited to participate in cowboy games like the boot race or mutton busting. Rodeo exemplifies the bull headed determination our nation is founded in, and the event brings smiles, cheers, fear, excitement, comedy and down home genuine hard work together in a way that other sports cannot match. Our nation is in a recession, and in the Midwest where I live and compete in rodeo, fans are flocking to rodeos to be reminded that all is well on the western front. Tickets are reasonable and cowboys and cowgirls and their horses and the horses and bulls that buck because they are buckers exemplify what is still real in the world. It would be a huge disservice to edit this exhibition of heart and determination and pure guts that this way of life demonstrates so well from any community. I worked in the rodeo industry for years, and can insure you that changes have been made that protect all animals from the use of electric prods that once was standard. Stock contractors need all of their animals to be in tip top shape so they are fed and doctored like the stars of the show they are. If you fear for rodeo animals, visit the farms and ranches where they live and ask for a tour behind the chutes at a rodeo. You'll be amazed at the condition and energy and beauty of these very individual beings. Then judge based on knowledge instead of the fear that activists would have you believe. Rodeo and the family it creates is a good thing.