



June 27, 2024

The Honorable Albert Sommers
Speaker of the House
Wyoming State Legislature

Dear Representative Sommers:

I'm writing on behalf of Wyoming-based members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, and PETA U.S. is the largest animal rights organization in the world—with a request in the interest of inclusivity. We most respectfully ask that you introduce a simple amendment to Wyoming Statutes Title 31 Motor Vehicles § 31-2-204—which currently requires that the Bucking Horse and Rider design appear on all state license plates—and allow for an alternative emblem for residents whose values are not reflected by that design.

You could, for example, replace this old silhouette with one of a majestic wild horse, like those who gallop across Wyoming, or with a triceratops, the first dinosaur whose bones were excavated in the state and who is now the state dinosaur. Or if you continue to promote rodeos, we ask that your license plates at least more accurately reflect the cruelty that animals exploited for entertainment endure with a silhouette of a bloody spur. Please see the images we've mocked up [here](#):



Times have changed, and an ever-increasing number of people are upset that animals endure fear and trauma, torn muscles, broken bones, and even fatal injuries when they're used in rodeos. These kind people do not support cruel activities such as calf roping, steer wrestling, and bronco riding.

As I'm sure you know well, rodeo performers have been caught on camera beating, kicking, and electroshocking horses and other animals in chutes and holding pens. "Bucking broncos" and steers are sometimes provoked with electric shock prods,

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- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

sharp sticks, caustic ointments, and pinching “bucking” straps. By the time the animals are released into an arena, they’re frantic and visibly distressed. The necks of calves who are roped while running are snapped back by lassos, often resulting in neck and back injuries, bruises, broken bones, or internal bleeding.

Earlier this month, at the Overland Stage Stampede Rodeo, a horse sustained a broken neck in the arena and another was later euthanized due to a severely broken leg. Last July 2023, in one of at least eight reported incidents in which animals were killed or injured during rodeos, a horse was reportedly killed in a bucking event at the Cody Nite Rodeo after being roped from both sides and a rider became caught in the ropes. Many other instances of animals being injured or killed in rodeos can be found [here](#). Of course, rodeos are dangerous for humans, too. In January 2023, a woman died after she was thrown from a horse at a rodeo in Florida. Just recently, in May, a man died after he was thrown from a bull and stepped on at a rodeo in Texas, and of course, others have died this way.

Wyoming has many extraordinary wonders that could be highlighted on a new license plate that everyone would enjoy seeing. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



Ingrid Newkirk
President

cc: Chip Neiman, House Majority Floor Leader
Clark Stith, House Speaker Pro Tempore
Mike Yin, House Minority Floor Leader
Cyrus Western, House Majority Whip
Karlee Provenza, House Minority Whip