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State Fair Horse Show Area

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Wed, Apr 27, 2016 at 8:11 PM

To: daneya.esgar@gmail.com

Cc: lindsay.wadhams@state.co.us

Dear Rep. Esgar,

I am a board member for the Rocky Mountain Reining Horse Association, having served on the board for approximately 20 years. RMRHA is a Denver area based affiliate of the National Reining Horse Association which is headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK. RMRHA annually hosts a regional reining competition called the Columbine Classic held in May at the State Fairgrounds facility. Each year, as the facility has deteriorated, we hear comments from the competitors that they will not return due to the state of disrepair of the facility. They bring expensive show horses and travel long distances to compete. The last thing they want is to have their horse injured while being stalled in a substandard facility. The other concern is that the Fairgrounds is not an all weather facility which causes disruption to show schedules and can create dangerous conditions for competitors. Attendance at our horse show has, in fact, declined. The board of RMRHA has discussed the condition of the State Fairgrounds in the past and board members have expressed concern about our ability to continue hosting the competition in Pueblo.

In addition to hosting an event at the Colorado State Fairgrounds, the NRHA reining competition held during the State Fair itself is part of the RMRHA Year-End Awards qualifying circuit of shows. We have heard the same concerns from our membership about the conditions of the horse show arena grounds and the fact they are uncomfortable with the disrepair of the facility. Fewer and fewer of our members have gone to the State Fair to compete because of these concerns.

The State Fair Horse Show area has a storied history of hosting national and regional level competitions. It used to be a favored destination for equestrians. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case. The facility should be a showcase for the State Of Colorado and for the State Fair itself. Hopefully the legislature will see the importance of renovating the facility and bringing the fairgrounds back to it's former glory. If action is not taken soon, it may be too late to ever bring business back to the venue.

Sincerely,

Cathy Irvin
Board Member
RMRHA
303.910.2052