

Good afternoon Ms. Chair and Members of the committee

Thank you for listening to us today. My name is Carolyn Iantz from Elizabeth, Co. I OPPOSE SB20-125. I own Aussie Kingdom, a traveling Australian animal program, and the Colorado Kangaroo conservation and rescue center. I am licensed by the USDA and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. My program is purely educational. We teach people about conservation and the critical nature of these animals in their native country. Did you know that Australia has lost more animals to extinction than other country in the world? Now because of the fires down under it is estimated that more than a billion animals have died, and another 300 species have gone extinct. (Brochure on where's the wild included in your packet)

Yes, my animals do travel. They travel in a fully enclosed, air ride, climate-controlled trailer. (included picture) Part of the trailer is living quarters, the rest of the 53' trailer is for the animals. They have large traveling pens built into the trailer with lots of room to fully stand up, lay down and roll around, fresh food and water available at all times. We drive no more than 500 miles in a day. Do they go into crates? Yes, my animals are all crate trained, you never know what nature may bring, fires, tornados, hurricanes etc. so they are comfortable going into these crates at any time and we can evacuate any situation in 30 min or less. They do not travel in these crates except to see the vet for their protection

The reason I do this is for the love of the animals and the desire to protect what is left of these species. The same reason most people in this business operate. We have raised these animals from babies, they are our family and we care for them deeply. We protect their welfare (brochure on difference between welfare and rights included in your packet)

It's a proven fact that caring for animals creates much more caring adults.

Colorado already has extremely strict rules and regulations, protecting animals from acts of cruelty, and what you can own as a pet. In fact, they have some of the highest standards of care in the country. This bill will not only destroy my business of 25 years, but it also destroys many of the animals you say you are trying to protect.

Most of the reasons listed for this bill are unfounded, they are based on untruths told by many animal rights organizations. Data from 50 years ago, animals in other countries and fundraising tactics used by rescues and sanctuaries, whom you are making exempt from these rules. Are you aware that a sanctuary does nothing for conservation of these animals? Once an animal is in a sanctuary they can not be bred, so once that species dies off from old age etc. that is the end of that species. They are open to the public just like a zoo, but they call it tours. They contribute nothing to the countries where these animals are going extinct and spend very little of the millions of dollars of tax-free donations received on the animals. They say google search circus cruelty, try wildlife sanctuaries gone bad and you will find just as many stories. (have included headlines for examples)

And yes, as in any industry there are bad apples, but they are being weeded out or educated on the proper care and we as an industry are constantly upgrading our standards to meet and exceed any and all guidelines of care. If you feel that traveling animals are not for you to see, then please continue to protest peacefully. Giving people the pros and cons, educating what you believe. It is your constitutional right to do so and remember it is my constitutional right to choose what I would like to see, own and teach also. Instead of Colorado always trying to be the first state to dictate what you can and can't do with your life, try to be the first state to educate people and give them the freedom to make their own decisions.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you vote no on SB20-125. Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions.

# iafe<sup>®</sup> THE NETWORK!

February 11, 2020

Senator Kerry Donovan  
Chair, Agricultural & Natural Resources Committee

RE: SB 20-125

Dear Senator Donovan:

The recently introduced SB 20-125 prohibiting the use of exotic animals in a traveling act would deny citizens of Colorado an important opportunity to learn about animals and how important conservation efforts are underway around the world to preserve many species which are at risk of extinction.

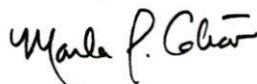
Agricultural fairs, since their founding more than two centuries ago, have long been a place for the community members to gather and to learn. Members of our Association – county fairs, state fairs, regional fairs across the US and indeed, around the globe – continue -- and strive -- to provide opportunities for education about agriculture, but also in some instances, of exotic species.

Exotic animal exhibitors and educators are already highly regulated, licensed and inspected. It is imperative to them, as responsible animal owners, that they not only abide by federal and state rules and regulations, but more importantly that the very care they give these animals is humane.

The professionals involved in exotic animal handling and management very often also work in collaboration with zoos and conservation organizations to further support endangered species through captive breeding programs, behavioral research and the study and treatment of disease.

We respectfully request you oppose SB 20-125

Sincerely,



Marla J. Calico, CFE  
President & CEO