



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marla J. Calico".

Marla J. Calico, CFE  
President & CEO