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Lobbying Report

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### ORU 513 “Horns Down Day”

House Bill ORU-513 is a bill referring to state holidays, but this one in particular refers to Horns Down Day. This bill was heard earlier this week and failed with a close vote of 33-32. With the original voting, it was a tie but was eventually broken by the House of Representatives Speaker of the House, Cannon Mitchell (OSU). If passed, it would become a state law that would be known as Boomer Sooner Day, but after much backlash, it was later amended to say Horns Down Day as everyone in Oklahoma can agree that no one likes Texas or their fans. Personally, I was against this bill as I am from Oklahoma State, but after hearing the amendment, I decided that it was not so bad after all. The representatives in the House were able to come together and move past their differences, and we were able to find common ground. I enjoyed caucusing with the other representatives and debating this bill.

I think this bill should be heard again next year because it brings fans from both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University together on the common issue that both sides hate the University of Texas. If there had been a better discussion from the author and more amendments added, I have a good feeling that this bill would pass in both the House and Senate. I can definitely see myself lobbying for this bill and making a huge push to get it passed next session, and I can see that happening. Hearing this bill made the session fun and gave everyone a reason to argue and debate, but the best part of it was having it tied and having the Speaker of the House break the tie. Overall, I think this bill should be heard next semester because it is important and gives insight into the long-storied history of the hate between Oklahoma Universities and the University of Texas.

In conclusion, I think this bill should be heard because it not only has common ground for the people in the State of Oklahoma, but it brings the only unity between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University because of their common hate for the University of Texas and their fans. I strongly urge this bill to be brought back next semester because it was an enjoyment for all representatives and gave a little break for everyone to have a little bit of fun with this bill, and I definitely think that with some changes to it, it will get passed in both chambers.