



September 7, 2023

TO: Senator Risch, Senator Crapo, Senator Lummis

S.2571

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is the official voice for all segments of the beef industry in Idaho and has membership that is comprised of seedstock breeders, commercial operators, cattle feeders, and allied industry. ICA is unique in that the membership spans to every corner of the state. The ICA stands in **SUPPORT** of S.2571.

Grizzly bears are becoming more and more visible in certain areas of Idaho. Specifically, grizzly bear interactions with humans and animals have become more prominent in North Idaho and Eastern Idaho. Recovery efforts over the last decade have prevailed, and the almost extinct bear has grown to a population that crests over 2,000 animals in Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, and Montana. Due to the increasing population, interactions with other animals have caused depredation conflicts to occur.

The recent recovery efforts towards grizzly bear have been successful and the State of Idaho has been instrumental, but now we have hit a roadblock. These recovery efforts show that it is responsible for all parties to acknowledge that this species should be removed from the Endangered Species Act listing. The population of bears is healthy, and the bear should be removed from ESA listing at this time so that conservation and management efforts can continue at the state and local level.

In 2022, a petition was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) to delist grizzly bears in the lower 48 states. That petition was denied. HJM5 requests that Congress acts promptly to delist the grizzly bear from the ESA, and that USFWS take corrective action to reverse their petition decision by relying on federal law, policy, and science.

For continued success by the state in conservation and management efforts it is necessary to delist the grizzly bear from the ESA. The distribution of bears has broadened to the effect that they now are impacting rural agricultural lands and communities; putting the public at risk along with livestock, domestic animals, and property.

The ICA urges your **YES** vote on S.2571.

Sincerely,

Kim Burton Brackett - Idaho Cattle Association Board President