



February 7, 2024

TO: Members of the House Resources and Conservation Committee

H468

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is the official voice for all segments of the beef industry. We are dedicated to representing seedstock breeders, commercial operators and cattle feeders. ICA is unique in that members are located in every corner of Idaho. The ICA **SUPPORTS** H468 that would create the Rangeland Improvement Act.

H468 would allow the Idaho Department of Agriculture to assist producers in seeking resources and funding to carry out grazing improvement projects across the state. These projects could consist of rangeland improvement and maintenance through the development of water sources or additional fencing, as examples. In addition, funding could be used for the control of predator and depredating animals; the control, management, or extermination of noxious weeds or invasive species; and any other management tools that further the general welfare of livestock grazing.

The legislation would weave together two already existing mechanisms to allow them to work together. Grazing board central committees already exist, and this legislation would expand their ability to assess and review grazing projects. Additionally, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a rangeland monitoring program that would see increased use and effectiveness from this legislation. The program would further assist ranchers in securing resources to make those rangeland improvements and then monitor those projects.

As a result of this legislation being implemented, a great deal of these funds and resources will be made more readily available for projects occurring in rural Idaho. Strengthening rural Idaho and our rangeland will assist in the long-term viability of the beef industry in Idaho. The ICA urges your **YES** vote on H468.

Sincerely,

Jerry Wroten
President



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