



February 12, 2024

TO: Members of the House Resources and Conservation Committee

### H473

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 would urge your **SUPPORT** of H473.

H473 would establish a new chapter in Idaho Code that allows for the creation of Agricultural Protection Areas (APA). An APA would be a voluntary land use designation, that is requested by an interested landowner who is involved in production agriculture to the local governing body. The landowner would make an application to create an APA over their land and would receive certain nonmonetary benefits. Once an APA is established, the designation would remain in place for 20 years with an option for an automatic renewal.

The benefits of applying for an APA designation would include allowing the land owner to be shielded from applicable local ordinances or regulations that would unreasonably restrict a farm structure or farm practice. The landowner would also have to provide written approval for any zoning classification changes and local governing ordinances and regulations would have to ensure the landowner would be insulated from public nuisance claims. Finally, eminent domain powers would be limited within an APA.

Let's face it, Idaho has been discovered and we have seen an increase in Idaho's population. This has provided many benefits to the state but has also begun to negatively impact agricultural lands and our members' lands. ICA has members of all sizes across the state. This legislation would help preserve and protect land that is used to produce and raise food in Idaho.

The ICA urges your **YES** vote on H473.

Sincerely,

Jerry Wroten  
President



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