



February 26, 2024

TO: Members of the House Local Government Committee

## H608

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 H608.

H608 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. The landowner would make an application to create an APA designation over their property and would receive certain nonmonetary protections. 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 landowner 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 while 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.

It's not a secret anymore, Idaho has been discovered and we have seen a drastic increase in Idaho's population over the last decade. 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 a healthy protein source.

The ICA urges your **YES** vote on H608.

Sincerely,

Jerry Wroten  
President



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