



February 26, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Resources & Environment Committee

## S1342

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 S1342.

S1342 would enable the Idaho Department of Lands to extend the grazing lease lengths up to 40 years as a maximum, in contrast from the current maximum lease length of 20 years. This would allow livestock operators who seek those grazing leases to have consistency and predictability when applying for those leases if they were to obtain the grazing lease. There are certain terms and conditions that must be met by the lessee and by having a longer term, it removes the risk that they may lose the lease in a shorter amount of time. By locking in a longer term, it does not absorb the lessee from annual grazing lease rate changes. Each year the Idaho Department of Lands determines the appropriate grazing rate and this is passed on to the lessees per Idaho Code 58-304.

Additionally, this legislation would exempt grazing leases from the hearing requirement mandated within Idaho Code 58-307(4). This would remove the cost and burden of IDL staff having to travel to each county where a grazing lease would be considered to hold a public meeting. This is supported by the fact that many, if not all grazing leases occur in the unincorporated portions of the county and away from many urban areas. Grazing does not omit the sounds, noises or smells that one may find with a recreational commercial lease or a mineral lease.

The ICA urges your **YES** vote on S1342.

Sincerely,

Jerry Wroten  
President



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