



January 27, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee

S1016

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is the official voice for all segments of the beef industry in Idaho, from seedstock breeders to commercial operators to cattle feeders. ICA is the grassroots policy development organization for Idaho's second-leading agricultural industry and is unique in that the membership spans to every corner of Idaho. **The ICA supports S1016, concerning statutory cap adjustments for the Idaho Brand Department.**

As a stakeholder representative for the livestock industry, the ICA has been engaged in discussions and a review of the current rates and operations of the Idaho Brand Department for the past eighteen months. We, along with other invested livestock operators, provided input during said review on the operations and efficiency of the department. The Idaho Brand Board, which operates as the supervisory body for the department, has been caught in a “catch 22” situation, where they are a dedicated fee run organization and those dedicated funds have slowly lost purchasing power and the ability to retain employees at competitive wages due to inflation and inability to succinctly adjust rates.

Additionally, the interest from the State’s Brand Account (which is currently applied to the State’s General Fund) being retained in the account, would generate an additional sum to support operations. ICA supports this action, as the monies generated are from, & for the benefit of, livestock producers.

The Idaho Brand Department fills the important purpose of facilitating transparent movement of cattle through primary service of providing brand inspections, which prove ownership of livestock. The department also operates in the capacity of investigators of cattle ownership, when required, to resolve conflict or prove theft.



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In conclusion, livestock stakeholders agree there is a need to increase the total per head fee for cattle inspections so that the Idaho Brand Board can remain fiscally solvent to continue providing this important service. ICA **supports** S1016 and the statutory cap increase proposed by the Idaho Brand Board and we urge your **YES** vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Spencer Black".

Spencer Black
ICA President



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