



February 17, 2025

TO: Members of the House Resources and Conservation Committee

H148

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 H148 dealing with the constitutional defense council.**

H148 would create a process for a litigant to apply to the constitutional defense council fund for reimbursement in fighting a precedent setting case against the federal government. H148 narrows the types of litigants to solely those seeking funds to assist for grazing and water rights cases. Additionally, the new section establishes a set of criteria that the council (made up of the Governor, Attorney General, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate) must consider when making a decision.

Idaho is a state that is comprised of nearly 66% public lands, and roughly 60-61% of these are federally managed through Bureau of Land Management or US Forest Service, the balance remaining under state management. Grazing on public lands is an important element of multiple use, for many reasons ranging from health of the landscape, benefit to wildlife and ability for cattle to take inedible to human forage and convert to a high-quality protein available to the American population. Ranchers work hand in hand with agency on a regular basis, however there are cases where federal level decision making has created a situation where litigation is necessary.

The ICA stands in support of H148.

Sincerely,

Spencer Black
ICA President



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