



February 17, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee

## S1012

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 S1012 dealing with a depredation appeals board.**

S1012 would create both an appeals board and a process where a producer who has experienced livestock loss due to depredation could appeal their investigation determination. Recently in parts of Idaho we have seen reductions in the number of investigations that result in confirmations. Additionally, there have been instances where a producer might potentially have additional evidence that could change the outcome of the investigation. However, as there is only one entity conducting investigations (USDA Wildlife Services), there has historically been no way for a producer to have their determination reviewed by an additional entity. At current time, this final determination dictates if a producer might/might not be eligible for livestock loss compensation, and also impacts the statistics related to wildlife species control in the state.

We believe that having a state appeals board (comprised of representatives from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Idaho Fish and Game Commission, and a state appointed large animal veterinarian) would be a well-rounded way to ensure all evidence is being considered, as well as ensuring more accuracy in regards to wildlife statistics. The ICA supports S1012, as it maintains the service provided by USDA Wildlife Services, but it incorporates a checks and balances opportunity on the aforementioned process.

Sincerely,

Spencer Black  
ICA President



2120 Airport Way • PO Box 15397 • Boise, ID 83715 • (208) 343-1615

