



February 14, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee

S1053

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 S1053 dealing with fencing.**

The ICA has a straightforward policy that supports and defends the open range statute in Idaho. Open range creates the presumption in Idaho that we are a “fence-out” state, where, unless in the case of superseding local law, it is the duty of landowners to fence livestock out and off of their property.

S1053 simply codifies existing common law that we know now, which is that it is the responsibility of the private property owner to fence out in open range. The federal government has not historically ever taken the initiative to fence public land. Therefore, it is the duty of the private property owner to construct and maintain legal fence if they would like to ensure livestock are kept off their property from adjoining federal lands.

Sincerely,

Spencer Black
ICA President



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