

# IDAHO CATTLE ASSOCIATION



since 1915

February 21, 2019

Dear Senator:

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is Idaho's only professional organization solely dedicated to representing the interests of ranching and cattle feeding families. Horses are a necessity in performing the daily production duties on many beef operations across our state giving our cattle producers a very vested interest in the inspection and ownership certification terms. However, ICA's primary interest in S1082 is ensuring the fiscal viability of the state brand department which provides an essential service for livestock producers.

ICA applauds the equine community for stepping up to the task of financing the service which they benefit from and support the provisions offered by this legislation. Furthermore, we wish to highlight that ICA does not perceive the increase in the Ownership and Transportation Certificate fee to present an unmanageable fiscal burden to our operations, mainly because this is a certification that is optional and most frequently used by those traveling interstate on a regular basis. Additionally, the addition of an Equine Farm Service fee would not adversely impact our operations because it can be avoided by transporting the horses to the brand inspector to have the inspection conducted or by having the horse inspection conducted while an inspector is on site to conduct other inspections.

In conclusion, ICA takes pride in the fact that our industry has successfully funded the brand department for the services that we need and firmly believe that all those who benefit from the services of an inspection, theft protection, and investigation should pay the costs associated. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Marty Gill  
President  
Idaho Cattle Association