

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 108

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

7 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

10 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has abundant wildlife and open space and relies on the agricultural and livestock industries, which, in turn, rely on Idaho's open space. However, these industries are often negatively impacted by depredating wildlife such as wolves and grizzly bears; and

14 WHEREAS, owners and operators of livestock operations within the State of Idaho often have federal livestock grazing permits to graze livestock on land managed by the United States Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management; and

18 WHEREAS, Idaho residents and policymakers have been struggling for years to address the negative impact depredating wildlife has on the agricultural and livestock industries; and

22 WHEREAS, even though Idaho law supports hunters helping control wolf populations, livestock is still being slaughtered by depredating wildlife, primarily by wolves and grizzly bears; and

24 WHEREAS, livestock depredation directly and significantly harms the owners' livelihoods, the local community's morale, and the regional economy; and

28 WHEREAS, to help offset the loss of the livestock, the state has created the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board and the Idaho Depredating Wildlife Appeals Board, both of which oversee claims of depredation and distribute compensation; and

32 WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Idaho Legislature that owners and operators of livestock operations are not reporting claims of depredation to the state depredation boards for fear of federal retaliation in the form of materially modifying or revoking their federal grazing permits; and

36 WHEREAS, the nation is reliant on the agricultural and livestock industries, and the livelihoods of the owners and operators of such industries are persistently threatened by depredating wildlife, which state law attempts to redress but cannot when our citizens fear federal retaliation.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature hereby calls on the Trump administration and Congress to protect Idaho's agricultural and livestock industries by mandating that claims of depredation are not a basis

1 for materially modifying or revoking federal grazing permits and directing
2 the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to promulgate
3 rules protecting grazing permittees from the federal government modifying
4 or revoking grazing privileges based on claims of wildlife depredation.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
6 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the
7 President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker
8 of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation
9 representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, the
10 United States Secretary of Agriculture, and the United States Secretary of
11 the Interior.