

February 26, 2024

SUBJECT: HB592 DEPREDATION – Adds to existing law to provide for compensation for depredation of livestock by grizzly bear and wolves.

Dear Representative Raymond,

Idaho Business for the Outdoors supports the passage of House Bill 592. The bill would provide for reimbursements to livestock owners and ranchers who experience losses as a result of wolves or grizzly bears. Requests for similar funding needs were over \$300K in 2023 – this includes compensation to ranchers for range riders, guard dogs, and wildlife cameras. This is an important step forward to compensating Idaho ranchers for loss.

Idaho Business for the Outdoors is a business member-based organization. Our mission is to provide a collective, non-partisan business voice that advocates for healthy lands, open space, and swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waterways. We value the role agriculture plays in the preservation of Idaho's outdoors and waters. This bill provides a solution that is beneficial to Idaho ranchers and is also good for Idaho wildlife.

Our membership is made up of industries and businesses of all sizes including some of the largest employers in Idaho. Open space, healthy lands, and waters promote investments, innovations, jobs, enhance revenues, and provide wellness benefits. We believe this is an important investment in Idaho's agriculture industry and we support the passage of HB 592.

Best Regards,

Skylan Jett

Skylar Jett, Executive Director, Idaho Business for the Outdoors

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