

OWYHEE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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"Serving Cattlemen Since 1878"



The Honorable Larry Craig
Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
364 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association supports passage of S 3794, the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act of 2006. The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association firmly believes that this legislation can promote economic stability in Owyhee County. Owyhee Cattlemen's has supported the Initiative process from the beginning, five and one half years ago, with both manpower and financing.

Owyhee Cattlemen's Association represents over 200 members in the Owyhee County area, a still vibrant ranching community. We view this as a potentially different way to approach natural resource and economic issues rather than the typical court room scenario. We understand that there are reservations about the Initiative from different groups. Questions and discussion about the issue is healthy, the Initiative Agreement can hold its own in open inquiry. We only ask that people not dismiss this out-of-hand as just "another wilderness bill". We also ask that people keep in mind these are our homes that are at stake in this matter. This is not an academic exercise for the residents in Owyhee County. This represents our best effort to have some control over our destinies and at the same time do something positive and proactive. We would hope that other groups who weigh in on this issue respect that fact.

OCA would like to thank you for scheduling the proposed legislation for a hearing on 27 September. This represents a significant step forward in the legislative process and we do appreciate the opportunity you have given us. We hope that after studying the Agreement you find that you can support passage of the bill. If there is anything the OCA can do to answer questions or otherwise support S 3794 please contact us at your convenience. My personal e-mail address is; re.turner@mindspring.com Thank you again for your help and we hope for your support.

For the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association,


Russ Turner, President

cc: OCA Directors
Senator Crapo
Chad Gibson

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