

force, or whether amendments to existing legislation will be made to preserve an industry which has at heart the production of quality beef to satisfy the increasing demands of our nation's population.

May I express once again, the heartfelt appreciation of Hawaii's cattlemen for the opportunity of presenting our problem to this committee.

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STATEMENT OF RICHARD D. BLINCOE, PRESIDENT, IDAHO CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Idaho Cattle Feeders Association submits the attached statement in support of favorable consideration of H.R. 9475 by the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. The association requests that the oral testimony and personal appearance before the committee of Mr. Bill House of Cedar Vale, Kansas, be accepted as the personal representation of its members.

The cattle feeders of Idaho support this legislation because they feel it is in the national interest; that it will bring economic stability to a basic domestic commodity production program that is essential to the overall prosperity of the United States; that the approval of this request by the influential House Ways and Means Committee will represent a strong endorsement of the cattle industry's efforts to sustain itself by its own initiative and sound management.

The attainment of these goals will insure an effective and continuing abundant supply of a vital food in the American diet for generations to come.

STATEMENT OF THE ABOVE NAMED ASSOCIATION CONCERNING BEEF IMPORTS

The Idaho Cattle Feeders Association, Incorporated, is a non-profit corporation representing the cattle feeding industry in the State of Idaho. It maintains an office and a full time manager in the City of Boise, Idaho. During the calendar year of 1967, Idaho produced 365,000 head of fed cattle for slaughter according to U.S.D.A. statements. The association is affiliated with the American National Cattlemen's Association which maintains its headquarters in Denver, Colorado.

Agricultural production is the prime source of income to the economy of the state of Idaho, and cattle represents the largest single crop in the state. Although Idaho is famous for the fine quality potatoes that are produced by irrigating this crop in the rich volcanic soils of the area, and is the number one potato producing state in the United States, even this famous crop does not produce the economic and monetary returns to the state that the cattle industry generates. There is a very close tie between cattle and potatoes, however. Due to the very nature of potato farming and its attendant crop rotation requirements, a great amount of fine feeds crops that are effective cattle feeds are produced. These crops must be raised and consumed and cattle are a necessity in the efficient production of potatoes. With its sparse population, Idaho is an exporting state on all of its production of farm commodities.

We recognize the need for international trade and for certain imports of beef into this country, both for the foreign trade consequences and the need for certain quantities of manufacturing beef.

The high American standard of living must be based upon a healthy cattle industry at home. It can not be dependent upon imports for this basic commodity. By the very nature of much of our land and the climatic conditions that prevail, we must continue to be livestock husbandmen to fully utilize our natural resources. This is particularly true in states such as Idaho where the Federal Government owns some 67% of the land. Livestock men lease much of this land for their livestock, and care for the land as well as their stock. Through their efforts, which is indeed a way of life, a crop is harvested from what would otherwise be idle land. There must be some stability created for this industry together with a reasonable return to the people for their efforts if this production is to continue.

The American cattle industry has always been known for its independence. Today there is a strong movement within the industry under the leadership of the American National Cattlemen's Association to follow an enlightened program that will bring stability and effective long range supply capabilities to the cattle business. The cattle feeders of Idaho endorse and support this program and participate in the support of the ANCA. A part of this self imposed, industry led program calls for certain changes in the legislation dealing with beef imports. The proposed changes requested by the industry are stated in H.R. 9475.