



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Press Release

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Livestock Theft Bill Advances

Sacramento, Calif. – AB 1722, sponsored by the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and authored by Assemblymember Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals), moves on to the Assembly Appropriations Committee after passing with unanimous support last Wednesday in the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

AB 1722 will strengthen penalties against those convicted of livestock theft and prevent anyone with such charges from holding a registered cattle brand in California for a period of five years after conviction. If the individual held a registered brand prior to being found guilty, AB 1722 would require the California Department of Food and Agriculture Bureau of Livestock Identification to cancel that individual's brand, and likewise, deny anyone from applying for a new brand if they were convicted of livestock theft in the past five years. Those found guilty would also be submitted to more frequent brand inspections anytime cattle are sold, moved, or transported after five years.

AB 1722 is built upon the success of a bill sponsored by CCA and authored by Assemblymember Bigelow that was signed by the governor last year. AB 924 realigned a significant portion of funds from fines associated with livestock theft to be directed to the Bureau of Livestock Identification to help fund state brand inspectors to help local law enforcement investigate cases of cattle theft.

"I was proud to work with CCA last year to implement tougher penalties on individuals convicted of livestock theft," said Bigelow, a Madera County cattleman himself. "But as the value of live cattle continues to increase, livestock theft remains a threat to ranchers' way of life. I'm pleased that my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee unanimously supported my bill to further protect our agricultural industry from criminals."

CCA thanks Assemblymember Bigelow for his commitment to preserving the ranching lifestyle and cattle business in California for all members of the cattle community.

The bill next awaits a vote by the Assembly Appropriations Committee before it will reach the Assembly floor. The hearing date is to be determined.

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Founded in 1917, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) represents California's \$1.75 billion beef cattle industry on legislative and regulatory affairs and remains the number one voice for the industry today. CCA is an affiliate of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which represents America's cattle farmers and ranchers.