



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Press Release

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Governor Brown Signs Livestock Theft Bill

Sacramento, Calif. – AB 1722, sponsored by the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and authored by Assemblymember Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals), was signed by Governor Jerry Brown Wednesday, July 15 after passing with unanimous support by the legislature.

A victory for cattle ranchers across the state, AB 1722 will strengthen penalties against those convicted of livestock theft and prevent anyone convicted of such charges from holding a registered cattle brand in California for a period of five years. Those found guilty will also be required to submit to more frequent inspections by the Bureau of Livestock Identification anytime cattle are sold, moved, or transported after five years from the time of conviction at the individual's expense.

AB 1722 is built upon the success of AB 924 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 who coordinate with local law enforcement to investigate cases of cattle theft.

"We are very thankful that Assemblymember Bigelow has helped CCA members combat cattle theft," said CCA President Tim Koopmann. "As cattle prices continue to stay high, cattle theft becomes a greater concern to many beef producers in California, but with AB 1722 in addition to AB 924, we hope that together these bills will help deter thieves and implement tougher consequences that will further protect our livelihoods and our ranches 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 will become effective as law January 1, 2015.

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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.