

*Fighting for the U.S. Cattle Producer!*



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November 18, 2008

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate:

**Re: Opposition to the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008**

R-CALF USA is a national, nonprofit association representing the interests of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the United States who raise and sell cattle and who care deeply for and manage our nation's natural resources. We are concerned about Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's recently announced plans to use this lame duck session to pass a massive land grab bill that could further restrict property rights of cattle farmers and ranchers. R-CALF USA strongly urges you to oppose the Omnibus Land Management Act of 2008.

This legislation exceeds 1,000 pages and combines more than 100 different land grab bills. It would subject millions of acres of land to government control and regulation and could prevent U.S. citizens from exercising their right of property ownership and wise multiple use of federal lands. It grabs so-called "wilderness areas," "heritage areas," and "scenic rivers," and extends damaging centralized command and control of these lands. Already, the federal government owns *more than 650 million acres*, much of which is inadequately maintained and poorly managed. Despite this tragedy of the commons, some in Congress seem intent on placing even more land under federal control.

Specifically, this legislation could infringe on U.S. cattle farmers' and ranchers' vested and/or riparian water rights and restrict their constitutional right to keep and own property and make decisions concerning its use. The legislation also creates new so-called "conservation" programs that would effectively encumber property rights, and millions of additional acres of land will be controlled by a vast and unaccountable bureaucracy. Ultimately, this bill forces American taxpayers to pay for an unnecessary restriction on the beneficial use of these valuable resources.

Simply put, this legislation is blatantly contrary to our national principles. It needlessly restricts property rights and it unnecessarily restricts individual liberty. We urge you to protect the citizens of the United States – taxpayers – and vote against the Omnibus Land Management Act of 2008.

Sincerely,

R.M. Thornsberry, D.V.M.  
President, R-CALF USA Board of Directors