



Idaho State Senate
Senate Minority Leadership Office

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Media Advisory

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Senate Committee Passes Bill to Weaken the Rights of the People—SB1108

BOISE—Today, on a party-line vote, the Senate State Affairs Committee passed [SB1108](#), a bill that weakens Idahoans' right to directly petition their government.

"I believe that Idaho's leaders should work to protect our rights, not limit or diminish them," said Senator Michelle Stennett (D-Ketchum). "This bill does limit the ability of citizens to repeal bad laws and to make lawmakers and elected officials listen to the will of the people."

Now that SB1108 has passed the Senate committee, it moves on to a full vote on the Senate floor. The bill is backed by a powerful interest group, the Idaho Farm Bureau. Ironically, this bill makes it harder for rural interests as well as urban interests to place initiatives or referenda on the ballot.

"When the already high threshold for the initiative process is raised, it's likely that the only ones who can successfully participate in Idaho's initiative process will be highly organized, well-funded interest groups or groups from out of state," said Senator Elliot Werk (D-Boise). "Our democracy is strong only to the extent that our people participate. This bill decreases participation and therefore weakens our democracy."

The senators are calling on all Idahoans to contact their senators and representatives to oppose this bill.

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