

Fighting for the U.S. Cattle Producer!



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April 10, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) respectfully urges you to immediately direct your agency to cease its current efforts to confiscate cattle owned by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his family. It is our understanding that your agency has initiated an armed confrontation against the Bundys to confiscate their cattle. It is also our understanding that the cattle your agency intends to confiscate are cattle that the Bundys continue to run on lands that the Bundy family had lawfully grazed for decades; lands to which they have considerable rights regarding access to stockwater and forage; and lands upon which they likely have made improvements.

R-CALF USA is deeply concerned regarding your agency's wanton display of intimidation against a Nevada rancher and believes your agency's initiation of an armed confrontation with which to send your political message is beneath any semblance of prudence or justice. While R-CALF USA makes no judgment regarding the purported non-payment of grazing fees as we do not have all the facts, the global spectacle you have created raises serious questions regarding whether the Bundys' have been accorded due process and whether your agency is in compliance with the laws of Nevada, including Nevada's brand inspection laws.

R-CALF USA is the largest producer-only trade association representing the U.S. cattle industry and we have long believed that your agency is working contrary to Congress' intent by depriving cattle ranchers in western states of water and grazing rights they acquired pursuant to U.S. statutes and that have been substantiated through court decisions. The alarming exodus of independent cattle ranchers in western states, particularly Nevada, provides evidence of your agency's untoward actions.

We urge you to immediately cease your ongoing, armed confrontation against the Bundys. Please let us know how we might help to resolve this matter in a manner that does not entail the infringement of the Bundys' considerable rights to not be forced out of business by the federal government.

Sincerely,

Bill Bullard, CEO