



**Cosponsor Support**  
**S.339 - Rural Heritage Conservation Act**  
**January 13, 2012**

The undersigned signatories of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition would like to take this opportunity to express our support for you cosponsoring Chairman Baucus' and Senator Grassley's Rural Heritage Conservation Act, (S.339). S.339 will make permanent the 2006 enhanced tax deduction for donations of conservation easements that expired at the end of 2011.

The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition is an unprecedented group of California ranchers, researchers, environmental organizations and government agencies. Together, the signatories are working to preserve private working landscapes, support the long-term viability of the ranching industry, and protect and enhance California rangeland for both legally protected and still-common species. This unique partnership encompasses the expertise of rangeland managers, ecologists and grassland wildlife experts who see donated easements as one tool available to assist us in reaching our strategic goals.

Voluntary conservation easements are an important tool for keeping land in ranching and protecting natural resources for future generations. We support the voluntary nature of these projects and believe the decision to enter into an easement requires significant planning on the part of the ranchers who own the land. However, there is tremendous value for S.339 to maintain open spaces, support the economic and social fabric of the ranching industry and rural communities, and provide habitat for plants, fish and wildlife.

Again, the undersigned California Rangeland Conservation Coalition signatories ask you to cosponsor of S.339. Please contact Tiffany Smith at the Senate Finance Committee at 224-4515 or [tiffany\\_smith@finance.senate.gov](mailto:tiffany_smith@finance.senate.gov) to sign on.

Sincerely,

*Signatories of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition*

Handwritten signature of Kevin Kester in black ink.

Kevin Kester  
President  
California Cattlemen's Association

Handwritten signature of Mark Kramer in black ink.

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Tara Hansen  
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California Native Plant Society



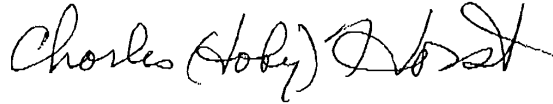
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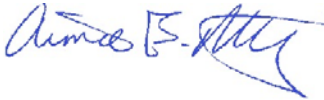
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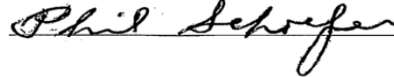
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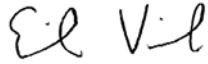
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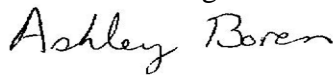
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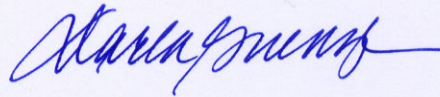
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