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## **ICA Supports EPA's Rejection of Petition to Ban Predator Control Devices**

**Lockhart, Texas – February 6, 2009 – For Immediate Release** – The Environmental Protection Agency recently was petitioned by animal rights activists to accept comments from the public on the continued use of predator control devices. The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas and other livestock groups responded with letters and documents supporting the use of such devices. The sheep and goat industry, especially, would have been devastated if they were unable to use the devices to protect their lambs and kids. On this issue, the entire livestock industry stood firm against animal rights activists. The animal rights groups believed the use of M-44 devices and Livestock Protection Collars (LPCS) was threatening several endangered species.

After a lengthy review of all comments, the EPA concluded there were sufficient safe guards and procedures in place to protect threatened or endangered species from the devices and the continued use of the control devices will be allowed in the future. In addition to protecting livestock, these predator control devices aid public safety, combat the spread of disease and reduce wildlife conflict while creating a sustainable balance between people and wildlife. ICA President Peanut Gilfillian said, "This victory is an example of how the livestock industry can work together to defeat those who wish to destroy our way of life."