

BOB BARKER

Bob Barker Productions Inc.

9201 Wilshire Blvd.

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

February 27, 2014

The Honorable Butch Otter
Governor of Idaho

Dear Governor Otter:

I'm concerned that a bill that's before you, S.B. 1337, could tarnish the state's great image for consumers across the nation. As a lifelong Republican, I know that it's crucial for police to have access to everything that they need to enforce the law, but this bill could keep evidence of routine, illegal abuse on farms from authorities. More than a dozen other states have rejected similar bills, which shows that their agriculture industries don't need a law to shield illegal abuse, and I hope you'll join them by vetoing this bill.

Last year, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam vetoed a similar bill after the [attorney general](#) stated that it could "constitute an unconstitutional burden on news gathering," and the Senate GOP leader [openly opposed it](#), stating, "If you're truly concerned about animal abuse, deal with the root cause not what people do after they see it. The implication of this bill is that it's OK to abuse animals." Republican strategist Mary Matalin's three-minute [video](#) appeal to legislators highlights how bills such as S.B. 1337 could prevent evidence that helps build a strong case against abusers from ever reaching authorities because there are no government inspections of farms for cruelty violations and workers who do report abuse are often ignored. The video just made waves this week in Arizona, where similar bills are being considered, as PETA was joined in screening it to a packed room of reporters by both Democratic Senator Steve Farley and conservative Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who expressed his vehement concern that such bills would strip officials of their ability to enforce the law.

Bills such as S.B. 1337 have drawn widespread criticism, from publications such as [The Idaho Mountain Express](#) and Indiana's [The Journal Gazette](#) to clergy in Tennessee and animal-welfare expert Temple Grandin, prompting legislators to reject bills like it in my home state of California as well as in Arkansas, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Tennessee, Wyoming, and many others. I hope to hear that you'll join them by vetoing this misguided bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Bob Barker