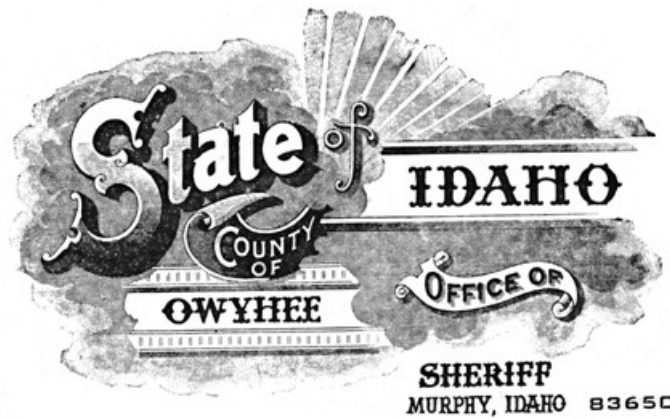


LARRY KENDRICK
SHERIFF

PHONE: (208) 495-1154



STEVE CRAWFORD
CHIEF DEPUTY

FAX: (208) 495-1259

February 20, 2026

Idaho State Senate & Legislature
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Senators and Representatives,

On behalf of the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, I am honored to write in strong support of S1326, the Property Rights Protection Act.

Government officials in many states claim the power to enter private property, surveil citizens, install secret cameras, and record at will—all without a warrant, accountability or oversight. They do this through the Open Fields Doctrine, a flawed 1924 Supreme Court opinion in *Hester v United States*.

States can reject this exception to the fourth amendment. Mississippi, Montana, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington are the only states in the U.S. that do not honor the Open Fields Doctrine. Idaho should join them.

Bereft of a warrant or probable cause, the government in many states can secretly trespass and place a surveillance camera on the land of private citizens. It is a common practice. But wait - is there a difference between a government camera hidden on private land, or inside a residence? How about a government agent hiding in the woods on private property spying on the property owner? The test, in many courts, is whether the government has violated a citizen's reasonable expectation of privacy. If the answer is yes, an illegal (unreasonable) search has occurred. I would argue it has.

Restraints on the government are necessary to prevent abuse of rights. The Open Fields Doctrine is ripe for abuse. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said, "If the government becomes the lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the law." I believe citizens have a constitutional right to be free from warrantless intrusions on their land absent the six narrow exceptions where a warrantless search is reasonable, as identified by the Supreme Court.

There is a precarious balance between the protection of constitutional rights and law enforcement. When the two conflict, we have the duty as servants of the people to the

protection of constitutional rights. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support S1326, the Property Rights Protection Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Kendrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "K".

Larry Kendrick
Owyhee County Sheriff
Murphy, Idaho