House Natural Resource Committee Members

Honorable Chair Rep. Witt

Honorable Vice Chair Rep. Sprenger

Honorable Rep. Barreto

Honorable Rep. McKeown

Honorable Rep. Reardon

Honorable Rep. Smith

My name is Jane Bicquette, and I live in rural Sherwood on acreage, and have lived in Oregon since 1990. I ask that you vote No on HB 2795 and HB 3118.

First, Oregon's initiative system promises voters that their wishes will be respected by their representatives. Whether the voters spoke in 1994 or 2018, our representatives and senators should respect their wishes. Voters told their Government not to use baiting and hounding to hunt cougars and bears. Period. Any vote for these two bills is a vote against the voice of the people of Oregon.

Second, trophy hunting, hounding and baiting practices, do not value life, do not support wildlife management, are cruel, unfair and inhumane.

Regarding HB 3118, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife should take responsibility for managing our cougars and bears with respectable stewardship and follow available science, and should not be allowed to overstate cougar populations to justify an anti-cougar agenda. As a taxpayer, I pay to have a Dept. of Fish and Wildlife perform duties that reflect respect for our wildlife, manage our wildlife carefully by protecting animals so that they exist in our state for decades to come. ODFW should not be allowed to designate an "agent" to do its work for them.

HB 2795 is again trying to circumvent Measure 18. Declaring some counties as "pilot programs" is simply a scheme to void Measure 18.

Our world is changing fast. With climate change, so many of our wild spaces are diminishing, and with that, habitat for wildlife. Humans have overpopulated this planet and have nearly depleted the wealth of natural wonder and beauty of Earth. Can we not protect our wild cougars and bears, can we not afford them compassion and respect? Can we not allow them the dignity and honor to live as the wild beings they are? Measure 18 is only one small blanket of respectful protection for beings that struggle to just survive. Please keep that blanket of protection in tact for our cougars and bears.

Thank you.

Jane Bicquette

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