

Submitter: Chris Wright  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

I grew up hunting and fishing in Oregon with my Grandpa and Dad. Ive seen our local deer population in the Willamette valley go from decent deer populations on National Forest to now it feels like a waste of time to deer hunt on anywhere local besides private timber land. Though the fire has helped deer population. The cougar population has exploded also. I run about 6 trail cams and regularly catch cougars on all the cams ive run. They were unheard of 20 years ago, now everyone has a story about seeing one in the neighborhood. They need to be managed effectively like all other big game species!. Each county should be able to make their own choice.

I want to express my support for SB 769 because it will empower each county to adopt its own cougar management strategy. Our state's geography and population distribution are incredibly diverse. It makes little sense to apply the same policy to places like Portland and more remote parts of Eastern Oregon. By allowing hound hunting in counties that choose it, we can respond more effectively to real issues like livestock depredation, declining deer populations, and human-cougar conflicts. This bill doesn't force any county to change its policy; it only restores local choice. That's why I believe it's a commonsense solution for Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Chris Wright

Concerned father of two girls that hope to hunt locally, husband to a wife that just started hunting, and small business owner