

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

I encourage your support of SB 569 which provides that a county is exempt from the applicability of a statute banning the use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougars if voters approve a county measure proposed by initiative petition or referred to the people by a governing body of the county. We are a livestock operation and cougars need to be managed in order to preserve our operation. All counties of the State are different and the wildlife dynamics are different in the cities than rural Oregon. Nothing is more concerning than to come face to face with a cougar while working. And that very cougar killed a deer within a short period of time just a short distance away in the brush. This is a true experience my husband had on our own property. While I understand the city people's perception of a cougar is different than mine, this bill creates an avenue for rural Oregonians to have some control over management of these animals that kill deer populations, livestock, etc. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important rural Oregon issue.