

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

With mule deer below management objective across our state, there is a critical need to empower ODFW and its biologists to help manage our cougar population. I am writing to share my vehement support for SB 769 as a biologist, outdoorsman, endurance athlete, and someone who understands the balancing act of carrying capacity. I'd like to see the restoration of local control over cougar management in Oregon.

Some areas rarely encounter cougars, while rural counties often see them around livestock, homes, and even schools. This bill would simply allow each county to choose whether to permit hound hunting, without forcing anyone to adopt the practice. I believe this flexible approach is more fair than a statewide, one-size-fits-all rule. It also respects the voices of local voters who know the conditions on the ground. Let's move forward with a balanced wildlife management strategy that recognizes Oregon's diversity.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Stadnisky, Ph.D.