

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

I fully endorse SB 769 because it supports responsible wildlife management and local autonomy. Cougars are beautiful and integral to our ecosystems, but their numbers have grown to the point where some counties are dealing with excessive predation on deer, elk, and livestock. Right now, the hands of those communities are tied, as the most effective strategy—hound hunting—remains prohibited statewide. I have friends in rural Oregon who feel they aren't being heard when it comes to cougar conflicts. The bill's approach is straightforward: Let each county put the matter to a vote. If a county decides it needs hound hunting to restore balance, fine. If not, nothing changes for them. This is how we can respect Oregon's diversity while ensuring a fair policy.

Gratefully,  
Chelsea Stuart