

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

I respectfully ask that the committee oppose SB 769. This measure would allow counties to opt out of Measure 18, which prohibited the inhumane and unsporting use of hounds to trophy hunt cougars for sport and recreation, because it is cruel and violates the ethics of fair chase. Measure 18 was passed in 1994 (I collected signatures on it and submitted testimony) and reaffirmed at a later date. I thought it was settled law, in that we have gone 18 years without a hearing on reversing the law. In the interim, the measure has gained popular support; a 2019 poll showed 65% of Oregonians support Measure 18. Laws of this nature (hunting and fishing practices) have historically been state wide to allow the public to clearly understand what they can and cannot do, and for game wardens to more easily enforce the laws. This measure would create a patchwork approach to wildlife management which would make life more difficult for already stressed game wardens and allow mischief on the part of hunters. I can imagine a hunter hound hunting in a prohibited county and then transporting the animal back to a county where this is allowed. Oregon is a small state and this legislative session we really need to focus on the important issues facing us. Hunting these magnificent animals with hounds has been disapproved by the voters and their representatives several times. Let's respect the will of Oregonians and once again reaffirm Measure 18 statewide.