

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

I advocate for SB 769 as it offers an opportunity to maintain a balance between cougar populations and other wildlife, such as mule deer and elk, without enforcing a one-size-fits-all policy across all counties. Having grown up hunting and fishing throughout Oregon, I have seen firsthand the significant decline in our deer herds. Current cougar management strategies appear to be largely ineffective; despite the issuance of thousands of tags each year, very few cougars are actually harvested. Allowing counties the autonomy to decide on permitting hound hunting can help craft solutions that are tailored to local circumstances. It makes sense for rural counties facing active cougar conflicts to have the option of employing effective, selective methods to manage these predators. I firmly believe in responsible hunting practices, and when properly regulated, hound hunting can be both humane and effective.