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

Hello, I'm reaching out to express my strong support for SB 769, which I see as a constructive step in restoring balance to Oregon's predator-prey dynamics. As an outdoor enthusiast since I can remember, I've noticed a sharp decline in deer herds. I know habitat loss plays a role, but it also seems to help the Cougars by condensing their pray during winter months, with most habitat loss being the winter geounds. The data suggests we cannot ignore the role of cougars in diminishing deer populations. Currently, Oregon hands out thousands of cougar tags each year while still having to paying for Cougars to be traped to help struggling deer and elk populations. Hound hunting was once a proven and selective method for harvesting cougars before it was banned statewide. It was also providing revenue for the state, rather than taking funds to pay trappers. By allowing individual counties to decide whether to permit hound hunting, we give local communities a voice while still respecting the importance of cougars in our ecosystem. This approach is not about wiping out cougars; it's about maintaining sustainable wildlife populations and responsibly managing Oregon's natural resources.