

Measure SB769

I am here to strongly advocate for Measure SB 769. The plummeting decrease of the population of deer and elk in our state is directly correlated to the abundance of cougars (and bears). The habitat in our beautiful state of Oregon has not changed so much that it would affect the deer and elk population to this degree. To preserve our ecologic equilibrium, we must control the cougar population. We must choose to keep our communities safe as well as our livestock and farming communities. Yes, our state is growing, we are expanding, and communities are being built, but these cougar sightings in these neighborhoods are a direct result of the increasing numbers of cougars roaming for food. There are too many cougars and not enough big game to feed all of them. There are too many benefits of passing Measure SB 769 to list in this letter.

Hunting with cougars is a method that has been around for years and has been proven to preserve our ecologic equilibrium up until they banned it. We need to return to prioritizing wildlife management in our state as well as forest management but that is a discussion for another day. Allowing each county to decide on this measure, is a brilliant way to meet in the middle of this wildlife management solution.