

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

I am writing in support of SB 769. This bill would provide the opportunity for each county to have an individual voice, in regards to effective management of large predators (cougars) in their communities. While this bill would not force any counties to adopt the use of hounds for management of cougar populations, it would provide counties with the option to vote on its applicability within their communities. For many rural counties, there are cougars moving closer into town, within close proximity to housing, schools, and livestock. A few winters ago a local in Joseph had a cougar kill his dog (large lab) and multiple cats, over the course of a few days. The cougar then had good reason to keep returning to this person's home. This person had young children who could no longer safely be outside, in their own yard. I've heard multiple stories from fellow deer and elk hunters, that have shared that they saw little to no elk or deer on their hunts this fall, but instead experienced being stalked by a cougar on their hunt. Being in support of SB 769 means that you understand the importance of counties having their own voice in how best to handle wildlife management within their communities, and understanding that a one-size fits all approach does not lead to the successful management of predators in Oregon, and rather - does more harm than good. I support the objective put forward under SB 769.

Thank you,  
Katie Birkmaier