

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

Cougars have lived here for millions of years; we humans have invaded their territory, depopulated and displaced deer herds they've traditionally relied on, while we've conveniently raised & bred delicious alternative food sources for them, out in the open. But cougars are the problem? People who own livestock have the responsibility to build adequate shelter to keep them safe, in the form of fences and barns. Attacking and slaughtering more cougars, whose existence as a species is already precarious, is not the solution - that is responding with bloodlust and barbarism. It is possible to coexist with wilderness as long as we are careful not to upset the balance that exists in nature, because doing so is what drives cougars into human habitats, primarily the search for food. You want to keep cougars from coming into populated areas to hunt livestock? Make sure the forests are healthy, and populated with deer and other prey animals that are their traditional food sources, and by and large, cougars would be happiest to avoid human areas altogether. Humans are not God, and it is not our place nor our right to hunt cougars, or any species, into extinction, which is what this bill would only encourage. Please vote NO.