

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

I am writing in support of SB769. I have seen first-hand the devastation Oregon's lack of management on cougars have caused. I have worked on cougar depredation calls walking into a barn seeing 26 sheep slaughtered for fun. I have worked calls where cougars have killed livestock 10 feet Infront of someone's front door. Trying to console the landowner about their family dog or house cat being taken front their front porch. Try to help small children in tears because their animal they bottle fed is now gone. I have seen this time and time again. The statewide ban on dogs has made a negative impact on other wildlife such as deer and elk as well. I have seen deer and elk numbers dropping heavily in areas i recreate. I in the last 4 years i have been stalked or hunted by cougars 3 times while mushroom foraging, or hiking. I don't want cougars gone, but a proper plan to manage the wildlife for Oregon's people and wildlife is in need. With hound hunting it will allow selective harvest allowing populations to be controlled. They are not trophies, but another source of sustenance to feed our families. Currently with the statewide ban harvest numbers are at a low and most of those harvests are harvest by luck. I appreciate your time and would love to see management give local counties control and get away from the blanket ban.