

I am writing this letter in support of SB 769. I feel that for too long, the voices of residents in rural areas of our state, have had no voice and no say in how our game is managed, and that includes predators. When I was a kid, hound hunting was very popular and at the time I was participating, cougar hunting required putting in for a draw, and being successful in that draw before you could harvest an animal. ODFW knew, for the most part, who had tags and was legally allowed to pursue cougar with hounds. The deer populations back then were healthier, you never heard of cougar sightings in someone's back yard unless they lived out in the country, and seasons were managed well. Now you can buy two tags a year, but the check in requirements have deterred a lot of people from actually following through with the check in

process. I feel that has kept a lot of harvests from going undocumented. We need to return the control of hound hunting, to the counties and let them allow hound hunting accordingly. Counties with zero cougar issues....no hound hunting....counties that are seeing consistent issues....let houndsmen manage them. Go back to the old style of tagging and not require an actual physical visit to an ODFW branch office, that can only be done during normal work hours, requiring the hunter to take time off of work just to be in compliance.

Thank you.