

Submitter:	Ryan Hook
On Behalf Of:	Self
Committee:	Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB769

I am strongly in favor of SB 769 because it aligns with Oregon's tradition of respecting local autonomy while relying on data-driven methods. I've watched our mule deer numbers steadily decline, and I find it concerning that we're issuing tens of thousands of cougar tags each year with minimal harvest success. Hound hunting has historically been an effective technique, enabling hunters to identify the sex and maturity of a cougar before taking a shot, which makes it more humane and precise. This policy wouldn't force any county to adopt hound hunting; it would merely offer a tool for counties that choose to use it. I believe giving local populations control over how they handle wildlife challenges is fair and fosters responsible stewardship of Oregon's natural resources.