

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

I am in full support of SB 769 because it empowers Oregon counties to tackle cougar management in a way that's right for them. I respect cougars as remarkable predators, but I also recognize that in some areas, their populations have grown beyond what local ecosystems and communities can sustain. By allowing counties to decide whether to permit hound hunting, we enable a more targeted approach that could bolster efforts to protect mule deer, elk, and domestic livestock. I believe we owe it to rural residents to give them a say in how to manage this critical issue. SB 769 is about partnership, not coercion, and it's a positive step toward balanced wildlife management.

Kind regards  
Ben J Mahar