

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

As a lifelong Oregonian and animal welfare advocate, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 769. This bill would overturn the will of Oregon voters, who have already shown where they stand on this issue—twice. Oregonians are opposed to the hunting of cougars with hounds and want to keep their protections in place.

Additionally, the protections afforded by Measure 18 have already been largely counteracted by subsequent legislation. While Measure 18 initially reduced the numbers of cougars hunted in Oregon, shortly after, season and area limits on hunting were removed, the price of cougar tags dropped, and tag sales increased from 937 in 1997 to over 34,000 in 2003. As a result, the number of cougars killed has since returned to pre-Measure 18 levels.

Allowing counties to "opt-out" of Measure 18 at this point is irresponsible and deeply against the will of Oregon voters. Again, I urge you to represent the interests and choices of Oregonians and oppose SB 769.