

I am writing to share my support for SB 769 because it would restore local control over cougar management in Oregon. I've seen firsthand how different regions in our state face distinct challenges when it comes to wildlife populations. Some areas rarely encounter cougars, while rural counties often see them around livestock, homes, and even schools. This bill would simply allow each county to choose whether to permit hound hunting, without forcing anyone to adopt the practice. I believe this flexible approach is more fair than a statewide, one-size-fits-all rule. It also respects the voices of local voters who know the conditions on the ground. Let's move forward with a balanced wildlife management strategy that recognizes Oregon's diversity.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Gatchet