

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

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

Please oppose SB 769.

Oregon voters recognize cougar hunting with hounds as the cruel and unsportsmanlike practice it is. They have twice voted to outlaw it.

This is fundamentally an animal cruelty issue. It should be decided on a statewide, not a county by county, basis. This is not unlike allowing dogfighting or cock fighting on a county by county basis.

Where I live, outside of Mosier, Oregon, there is no shortage of deer in spite of the presence of cougars (as evidenced by our game cam). This contradicts the Measure supporters' claim that cougars have caused a deer shortage. Cougars are needed help keep the deer population in balance, especially with the mild winters, which have resulted in increased deer populations.

This bill is also unnecessary as trophy hunters killed nearly 2,600 cougars between 2008 and 2017. As there is no shortage of deer, there is also no shortage of trophy hunters.

Excessive trophy hunting of cougars is already allowed in Oregon, just not with dogs. We should respect the will of the voters and keep it sportsmanlike.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dooley