

Submitter: Alan Guess

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB769

I am in support of SB769. As an Oregon resident of nearly 35 years and a graduate of the Oregon Master Hunter program, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects that Measure 18 (1994) has had on Oregon's elk and deer herds, and local livestock. SB769 is an attempt to help right those wrongs. Measure 18 took some of the most effective wildlife management tools away from wildlife professionals and placed it in the hands of voter's, many of whom do not have to live with the consequences.

While wildlife management decisions should be left to the professionals and not brought to the ballot box, SB769 must use the same ballot box to a gross injustice that was Measure 18. The added benefit is local voices are heard and allows local issues to be addressed.

For too long, the rural communities have felt the brunt of a largely un-managed predator population. Losing both livestock and wildlife at a fearful pace, both are a mainstay of our rural Oregon.

The professionals in the ODFW need the tools to properly manage these magnificent and efficient predators and SB 769 provides those tools and gives the voice back to those local citizens whose lives and livelihoods are most affected.

Respectfully,
Alan Guess, Veneta Oregon