

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

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 769 "Provides that a county is exempt from the applicability of statute banning the use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougars if voters approve a county measure proposed by initiative petition or referred to the people by the governing body of the county". It is my position that those who are most effected by a situation have to right to vote and decided on a purposed solution. I live in a county who's economic stability relies heavily on agriculture and livestock. Unmanaged or miss-managed mountain lion populations in the area are a direct threat to peoples livelihood, not to mention wildlife. While the decision in question is not whether or not to hunt, it should not be missed the mass effects an unchecked predator population has on the landscape. Having spent most of my life in the wilderness I have never come across and laid eyes on a mountain lion, yet I have lost track of the number of carcasses of deer, elk, and cattle taken by these predators. Historical evidence based practice shows us that managing a predator's population under the purview of the ODFW will only help to ensure a healthier and more vibrant ecosystem.I support this bill in the hopes that I may have the chance to vote on something that directly affects my area and not have that chance taken by people who do not live here and do not understand the benefits to such a bill. I only speak for myself when I say that if there was something affecting the lives of people in Marion County I would trust those people to be able to decide for themselves on a reasonable solution. I would not impose my will or thoughts on something to which I do not understand or am not directly affected by.