

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

I am in full support of SB 769! As an Oregon hunter, my life has consisted of traveling to different places around the state, and one thing is clear: Our mule deer population has been declining since the ban on hound hunting before I was born! I strongly support hunting with hounds! Oregon has become the number one state with the most cougars per square mile. So why should we allow dogs again: under current law, all we can do to harvest cougars is call them in or get lucky during deer or elk hunting and harvest them. (which is seldom). This bill would increase mule deer populations, which is much needed! Allowing people to hunt cougars with hounds not only increases the mule deer population but maintains a healthy cougar population by enabling hunters to choose the cougar they harvest. Most hunters don't want to kill smaller cougars, but that's the only opportunity they are given! With hound hunting, you can identify the sex and weight of the cougar. If a hunter doesn't like the size or sex, he can call off his dogs and go find another one. This would also bring in out-of-state hunters, which would be a big income increase for the state as they are usually charged triple the normal cost of a resident tag. If this bill were not to pass the hunting conditions in Oregon would continue to decline. This approach is not about wiping out cougars; it's about maintaining sustainable wildlife populations and responsibly managing Oregon's natural resources.

Thank you for hearing my perspective,
Douglas Shepherd