

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 769. This bill is not only inhumane but also poses serious risks to both wildlife and the dogs involved in such hunts.

Hounding is a cruel practice that causes unnecessary suffering for both mountain lions and hunting dogs. When pursued by trained dogs, mountain lions experience extreme stress and exhaustion, often leading them to climb trees where they are then shot at close range. This method strips the hunt of any ethical fairness and turns it into an unnecessary act of cruelty rather than responsible wildlife management.

Furthermore, hounding puts dogs in serious danger. Mountain lions, when cornered, will instinctively defend themselves, leading to violent encounters that result in severe injuries or even death for the dogs. This practice not only endangers the animals directly involved but also risks disrupting the balance of Oregon's ecosystems by increasing human-wildlife conflicts.

Oregon has long valued science-based wildlife management that prioritizes conservation, ethical hunting practices, and respect for nature. SB 769 is a step backward, catering to a small group of trophy hunters at the expense of responsible wildlife stewardship. Instead of legalizing a practice that is widely condemned, Oregon should continue investing in non-lethal management strategies and public education to prevent conflicts between humans and mountain lions.

I urge you to oppose SB 769 and stand with the majority of Oregonians who support ethical wildlife management and animal welfare. Thank you for your time and consideration.