

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

I'm writing to the Oregon State Senate to express my opposition to SB 769.

I, along with the majority of my fellow Oregonians, want to protect our cougars. A 2019 Remington Research Group poll reported that 76% of Oregonians believe that cougars "play a vital role in healthy ecosystems." That poll also shows that a majority of Oregonians oppose wildlife killing contests. We understand that guard animals and electric fencing are far more effective in preventing domestic animals and livestock from wild predators, including cougars.

Other studies (Dellinger et al 2021, Teichman et al 2016, Laundré and Papouchis 2020) show that trophy hunting of cougars either exacerbate conflicts with humans, pets and livestock, or at the very least do not achieve the intended management goals.

It is well known that when adult cats are removed – particularly resident adult males – younger, less experienced cats move into those vacancies. It is also well known that young and inexperienced individuals are the most likely to engage in livestock predation and other human-predator conflicts.

Let's protect our wildlife AND our livestock. No on SB 769.