

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

Please vote in favor of Senate bill 769. It is important to maintain ecological balance. The cougar population in Oregon continues to expand and the only way to keep our nocturnal cougar population within reasonable numbers is with the use of hound hunting. We own a cattle ranch and are continuously dealing with cougar predation on our ranch. Without the ability to manage cougar populations in our area, our ranching operation would not be economically feasible. Our ranching operation supports numerous facets of our economy, including meat production and providing employment opportunities in various roles. Having a reasonable way to manage cougar populations is just as important as our ability to increase hay production and control internal parasites in our cattle. There simply is no way to keep the cougar population in our area in check without the use of hounds. Ask a Biologist at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife how important it is to maintain cougar populations and whether the use of hounds is necessary and you will hear a resounding yes to both these questions. Thank you for your time and understanding how imperative this Senate Bill is to our economic productivity.

Jeff Mornarich
Glide, Oregon