

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

Like so many Oregonians, I choose to live close to nature with forest land just a short walk from my home. Cougars are my neighbors in the forest above my home. Cougars in my area help control the local deer population and are an important animal in the food chain of the forest. So, on the behalf of my neighbors, I urge you to block Senate Bill 769. Oregonians have voted against this issue twice already. The vast majority of Oregonians value our wildlife and take our duties to be guardians of our animal neighbors seriously. Allowing counties to proceed with exemptions from the statute that bans the use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougars is unfair and unacceptable. Cougars range over a wide territory and can cross county lines as they look for prey. If there are problem cougars, there is already provision in current law to allow wildlife managers to use dogs to help deal with cougars who are a threat to people or property. However, SB 769 will make cougar hunting a sport in Oregon. Oregonians do not want trophy hunting our beautiful cougars as a sport. Thank you for your consideration to oppose this cruel bill.