

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

Dear Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire members,  
I am writing in support of SB 769 as it will restore local control over cougar management in our state. I have hunted mountain lions without success for over 20 years. I am an avid hunter and outdoorsman who have seen first hand the amount of decline of the deer in my area I have hunted for decades. I found 2 separate cougar kills of deer, and was for the first time in 6 years was unable to harvest a deer. About 6 months ago, my dog came to the door with a dead three point bucks head. I took it from him and waited for him to go get more parts. I watched him as he went up the hill less than 50 yards from my house and ended coming out with a leg bone. I went up and sure enough there was a cashed carcass. 3 summers ago, I was in town getting groceries and my neighbor called. When I answered, he asked if I was home and I said no, but he could call my wife if he needed anything. He said he was calling to let me know there was a lion in my driveway when he drove past. I called my wife and let her know and she said the boys (age 5,7,9) were playing on the log deck about 30 yards from the end of the driveway. She had my 9 year-old call our dog to him and then when the dog got to them she told them to come to the house as she didn't want them to appear to be prey leaving the cat. Nothing came of it, but the cat was observing children. As a rural resident, I see firsthand that the current management strategy of our mountain lion population is not effective at reducing livestock depredation, decreasing human-lion interactions, and balancing the predator to prey ratio. I am a firm believer in responsible hunting practices and hound hunting, when regulated, is a humane and practical solution for the counties that would choose to have hound hunting.

Best,  
Dr. Casey Ferguson DC