

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

I support SB 769 because it gives a chance for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement science based wildlife management policies, without imposing a blanket policy on every county. Oregon's ungulate populations are in decline due to a number of issues, with a lack of predator management being high on that list. Current cougar management efforts are largely ineffective, given that thousands of tags are issued annually but very few cougars are harvested each year, with a vast majority of those being juveniles that were harvested during chance encounters. Relying on chance encounter harvest to manage our predator populations is neither effective nor ethical, being that there is no way to harvest select animals to manage for a proper population dynamic for a geographic area. Allowing counties to decide for themselves whether to permit hound hunting can help tailor solutions to local conditions. Hunting with the use of hounds is the only way to selectively harvest cougars and manage for population dynamics pre-determined by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Sincerely,
Lane McDonald