

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

I am writing to share my perspective as an Oregon resident who values both wildlife conservation and public safety. SB 769 addresses a pressing need for nuanced cougar management, particularly in rural areas where encounters with these predators are on the rise. I've seen families who worry about sending their children to play outside because of cougar sightings, and ranchers who struggle with livestock losses. At the same time, I want to ensure that cougars remain part of our ecosystem. This bill does not eliminate protections for cougars; rather, it provides counties the flexibility to use hound hunting if they deem it necessary. Evidence shows that hound hunting, when properly regulated, offers a more controlled and selective way to manage cougar populations. Let's put the decision in the hands of local voters who understand the complexities of their own region.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint,
Payton Johnson