

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

Members of Congress,

For the record My name is Jaynie McBeth, and I am here today not just as a supporter of the bill SB769, local cougar management, with odfw oversight.....but as someone who lives every day with the consequences of unchecked cougar activity.

I am not speaking about something in the past—I still live in fear.

For almost three months, a cougar stalked my property, fixating on my goats. I did everything I could—security cameras, flashing predator deterrents, alarms—nothing stopped it. Night after night, I was jolted awake, grabbing my gun, running outside, screaming, setting off every alarm I had. And still, the cougar came.

I reached out to ODFW, desperate for help, but was told nothing could be done just shoot it myself. Believe me I tried.

Eric a professional trapper, couldn't intervene either, because the cat hadn't killed—yet.

One occasion, I fed my animals, completely unaware that the cougar was watching me. Later, my trail camera showed it walking through my property just minutes after I had been there. I wasn't just worried about my goats anymore. I was scared for myself.

Then ..one fateful morning, I had to face the horror of seeing security camera images of my baby Helen taken from her slumber from the barn.... feet from my bedroom window...., drug across the creek, and buried just 100 yards from my back porch.

After Helen was killed, I called Eric again, and within that same day, he was able to come dispatch the cougar. The only relief I had was knowing that particular cat wouldn't be coming back for more goats, but that was just one.

There have been others, and I know it will happen again. Today, I live in fear of my own back yard and surrounding woods. Like Ptsd ..I don't let it stop me, but the thoughts are always there.

I often get trail camera pictures of cats near by or hear a neighbors story from time to time about their cougar encounter or loss of animals due to cougar. Those moments definately heighten that fear.

This is why I support this bill.

It's not about wiping out cougars—it's about restoring their natural fear of people and structures before they become even more of a threat. My dream is to have a hobby farm. Livestock is an investment, and without proper predator management, that investment—and my safety—is at constant risk.

I live this fear every day.

I urge you to support this bill, not just for me, but for everyone who wants to live and

work in rural areas without constantly looking over their shoulder or feeling helpless when it happens to them  
Thank you.