

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

Cougars are an apex predator, critical to maintaining a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

They also help feed and support many species of birds and mammals by leaving behind a significant portion of the carcasses of their prey.

Studies show that trophy hunting of cougars exacerbate conflicts with humans, pets and livestock because when adult cats are removed – particularly resident adult males – younger, less experienced cats move into those vacancies, and they are the individuals most likely to engage in livestock predation.

Oregonians have repeatedly taken a stance against trophy hunting cougars, with or without dogs, and therefore we should not be beholden to the hunting lobby and meat industry's ranchers.

It's time for Oregon lawmakers to stand up to corrupt special interests and to accept that these essential keystone animals must be respected and allowed to live their lives contributing positively in the wild, not mounted on a wall.