

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

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon condoning killing of mountain lions. Mountain lions play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, and increasing hunting pressures on these apex predators could have serious consequences for the state's ecosystems and human health.

Scientific studies indicate that overhunting mountain lions can lead to negative ripple effects, including increased conflicts with humans and livestock, disrupted prey populations, and destabilized lion populations. Additionally, reducing mountain lion numbers can result in unchecked rodent populations, which poses significant public health risks. Rodents are known carriers of diseases such as hantavirus, plague, and leptospirosis, all of which can have severe or even fatal consequences for humans. To control surging rodent populations, communities often turn to increased pesticide use, introducing further dangers. Many rodenticides are toxic not only to rodents but also to humans and other wildlife, contaminating water sources and harming non-target species, including pets and birds of prey. Exposure to these chemicals has been linked to neurological damage, endocrine disruption, and cancer in humans. Ethical wildlife management should prioritize conservation and science-based decision-making rather than catering to special interest hunting groups. I urge you to reject mountain lion killing and instead support policies that protect Oregon's wildlife for future generations. Please consider the voices of conservationists, biologists, and residents who value these magnificent creatures as an integral part of our natural heritage.

Thank you.