

Submitter: Genny Bond
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

With regard to SB 769: please oppose this bill.

--SB 769 would allow counties to opt out of Measure 18, circumventing the will of Oregonians and creating a chaotic, confusing patchwork to wildlife management.

--We Oregonians have already shown where we stand on this issue – twice.

Oregonians are opposed to trophy hunting of cougars with the use of packs of dogs and want to keep them protected. Carving out counties isn't a wildlife management tool or a plan. It is a violation of the heart of Measure 18—and if the proponents of hound hunting really want to bring back hound hunting, instead of trying to bypass the voters, they should collect the signatures needed for a statewide ballot, just like the Measure 18 volunteers did in 1994.

--Cougars avoid people as much as they possibly can unless they are really pressed for food options. I just moved to the suburbs of Dallas, OR, just a year ago; prior to that I lived for 30 years in rural Gales Creek, OR, at the interface of the forest and farmland. I maintained horses, dogs, and cats on my property, and never even glimpsed a cougar even though they were occasionally caught on nearby trail cameras. My few neighbors in the larger area maintained goats, chickens, and other animals, with zero attack from cougars. We routinely had elk traversing our property and the surrounding area, but any cougar takings of elk occurred well away from any homes---way up in the woods where no one ever even found any remains. One neighbor even left an elk carcass in the woods in order to try to lure a cougar--there was no evidence any cougar approached the location. Cougars just plain avoid contact with people unless they have no other options--they don't want to be seen or heard. Even hiking the woods in twilight (with appropriate equipment), hoping to catch sight of a cougar, I never did---there may have been a cougar watching me from up in a tree or hidden away, but there were no sightings or attacks, ever.

Please continue to respect the will of the voters like myself, and oppose SB 769.

Kind regards,