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MEASURE: HB 4119  
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**RE: 4119**

There is no emergency that requires this bill. Oregon already has a cougar plan to address dangers or predation from cougars. In fact, the State can already authorize specific cougar hunts, using hounds if necessary, of problem cougars that pose a danger or predate on livestock, and hunters can already kill them without hounds as long as they have a cougar tag. In fact, I heard that more have been killed by regular hunting than used to be killed by cougar hunting with hounds (before voters banned cougar hunting with hounds).

The actual risk of a person getting attacked by a cougar is estimated at about 1 in 100 million. Since 1990 there have only been about 8 attacks by cougar on people in Washington State, 7 in California, and none in Oregon (from the latest statistics we could find). The risk of a child being killed by a domestic dog is far higher, and being killed on their bicycle or ATV or in a hunting accident is a far more significant risk.

County administrators cannot make sound wildlife decisions; that should be left to ODFW, the agency that is staffed with biologists and knowledgeable about wildlife issues and management.

Killing of cougars does not reduce conflicts with cougars. In fact, statistics in Vancouver BC and Washington State show that the opposite is probably true (for reasons too complex to explain briefly here).

This bill would complicate wildlife laws and create additional administrative costs, taking needed funds from education and human services.

This bill should not be taking up the limited time of legislators in this session. There is no emergency. You should not use this brief session to sneak through this bill which would basically go against the will of the voters, who voted not once but twice to prohibit hound hunting of cougars.

There is no real need for this bill except to please some hound hunters, yet it would increase administrative costs for the State and complicate enforcement of hunting zones.

I urge a "no" vote on passing it out of committee.

Laurel Hines

