

March 31, 2013

**RE: HB 2624 and HB 3395 – Expanding the use of hounds to pursue cougars – Oppose**

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

I respectfully request that you oppose HB 2624 and HB 3395, scheduled for hearing on April 2. Both of these measures are attempts to overturn the will of the majority of voters who supported Measure 18 to ban hounding of cougars and black bears.

The cougar hunting season has already been expanded to encompass the entire year and the Cougar Management Plan allows the taking of roughly 40% of the population. There is no evidence to suggest a need to expand the opportunities even further by allowing the use of hounds.

Thank you for considering my position.

Sincerely,

Teresa Heist  
Medford, Oregon