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Date: April 2, 2013
To: House Committee on Agriculture
Re: HB 2624

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization.

We urge you to oppose HB 2624.

Twelve Oregon high schools, from rural southern Oregon to the suburbs of urban Portland, boast a cougar as their mascot.¹ These schools chose this animal to symbolize traits they aspire to possess—grace, athleticism and power—not malicious killer or nuisance. These animals are magnificent creatures that deserve the benefit of creative management strategies over being subjected to a barbaric and antiquated hunting technique.

Cougars are a predator species and it is probable that, instead of fleeing, a cougar will choose to defend itself against pursuing dogs.² Creating a law that ignores the strong likelihood of cougar-dog combat, akin to animal fighting, is an affront to the Oregonians who have voiced their opposition to this management method time and time again.

Confronted with the need to manage cougar populations, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has other tools available to them that do not involve the Legislature repealing two citizen ballot initiatives that stand for and uphold the majority view that dogs should not be used to hunt bears and cougars.

Please vote NO on HB 2624.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Harmon
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¹ Mountain View High School, Canby High School, Illinois Valley High School, Crow High School, Echo High School, Gervais High School, County Christian School, Portland Adventist Academy, Prospect Charter School, Cascade High School, Ukiah High School, and Wallowa High School.