

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
Hearing Room D
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97502

February 17, 2015

Chair Witt, members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am Ty Stubblefield, Field Administrator of the Oregon Hunters Association. I am here today to ask for your support of HB 2050 and HB 2181.

These two bills are not as much about cougars and dogs, hunters or non-hunters as they are about equality! This is an issue, which drastically affects rural Oregon, and rural Oregon is simply asking for the opportunity to vote on the issue on a county-by-county petition.

In 1994 nine of the 36 counties dictated that 27 rural counties could not use the most affective tool to manage cougars. Those 27 counties have suffered the most from this decision made by Oregon's urban counties. Setting aside the financial impact to small rural towns, which many of you represent. There is the ever-increasing public safety issue brought on by a largely expanding cougar population that is outgrowing its very own habitat. These big cats are being euthanized in back yards, on our children's school grounds and hit on our highways and city streets posing a serious danger to public safety.

Help urban and rural Oregon reach some common ground by passing these two bills that do not overturn or change the current law. They simply give those the most affected by the issue the opportunity to decide what's best for the county they live in.

Thank you for taking the time to listen,

Ty Stubblefield
Field Administrator
Oregon Hunters Association