

From: [Georgia Wier](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Opposition to HB 2795 and other measures that would erode Measure 18
Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 4:04:09 PM

Dear Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee:

I strongly oppose HB 2795 and any other measures that will overturn or weaken Measure 18, the 1994 ballot initiative that abolished the hound hunting of cougars. Oregonians voted in 1994 that we did not want hounds pursuing cougars. Measure 2795 would allow counties to “opt out” of Measure 18, circumventing the will of a majority of Oregonians and creating a chaotic, piecemeal approach to wildlife management in the state.

I do of course want to establish wildlife management practices that help prevent conflicts between cougars and humans (as well as with pets and livestock). Dr. Robert Wielgus (Retired director of the Large Carnivore Conservation Lab) and Kelly Peterson (Oregon’s senior state director for the Humane Society of the United States) explain that trophy hunting of cougars will actually increase such conflicts. I hope that you will read or listen to the OPB article dated Nov 7, 2018 and titled “Oregon May be Over-Hunting Cougars, which Could Cause More Conflicts.” This article helped me understand why hound hunting, even if it’s non-lethal, can lead to more human/cougar conflicts. It also explains how Oregon’s cougar population is probably far smaller than that reported by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife. See <https://www.opb.org/news/article/cougar-overhunting-conflict-oregon/>

I am not a hunter, but I do appreciate cougars immensely. I enjoy learning about cougars and knowing that they thrive in Oregon because of the wildlife management policies we enact. I do think that Oregonians would benefit greatly from increased education about humanely co-existing with cougars. The evidence shows that using these humane solutions will help prevent human/cougar conflict (as well as cougar/pet and livestock conflict) far better than hunting of cougars with hounds.

Please consider my strong objection to HB 2795.

Thank you,

Georgia Wier

2533 SE 38th Ave

Portland, OR 97202