

From: [Wally Sykes](#)
To: [Rep Witt: Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Please oppose HB 3118
Date: Monday, April 8, 2019 12:55:51 PM

Dear Chair Brad Witt and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

Just a kindly reminder to please oppose this Bill designed to by-pass Oregonians' twice-affirmed banning of hound-hunting cougars.

Since 1994 Oregonians have shown their aversion to hound-hunting of cougars and bears and to trophy hunting in general. Measure 18 was strongly re-affirmed by voters in 1996. Changing demographics undoubtedly has increased the numbers opposed to these unethical hunting methods.

ODFW is the only state agency in the nation that counts cougar cubs as members of the general population, thereby grossly exaggerating the numbers in an effort to support hound-hunting.

Trophy hunters take the largest and oldest cougars, disrupting cougar social systems and exacerbating human/cougar conflict by allowing younger, inexperienced individuals into vacant territory. Lacking well-developed hunting skills, these cougars are more likely to prey on domestic animals and livestock. Current management methods already permit use of hounds to control problem animals.

Over and over again hunting interests and the ODFW put forward these bills which run counter to the position of most Oregonians. Let these special interests take the issue to the voters by a new Measure if they wish to re-introduce hound-hunting.

I'm from eastern Oregon: Walllowa County.

Please oppose this odious Bill.

Wally Sykes
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