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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

What part of "NO!" don't you understand?

Every year, since 1997, some legislators have introduced a raft of bills to either weaken and/or repeal Measure 18. Multiple bills have already been introduced in the 2025 legislature that would subject Oregon's cougar population to hounding for sport and trophies, posing an affront to the democratic process and the majority of Oregonians who want cougars and their kittens protected from such cruelty. I am sick and tired of anyone catering to someone else's blood lust!

Measure 18 already allows state and federal wildlife agents to hound cougars in the advent of threats to property or public safety and to carry out state wildlife-management objectives. This exemption has been successful in removing individual cougars involved in conflicts with humans, pets, and livestock while retaining the protections the voters want from abusive hunting methods.

Culling a native carnivore population, especially one as sensitive as cougars, is not an effective management approach and will likely disrupt their communities resulting in more, not less, conflicts with humans, pets and livestock.

According to the nation's top carnivore biologists, ODFW grossly overstates Oregon's cougars by including kittens – most of which don't survive to adulthood – in their estimates. By so doing, and by using other flawed population-estimation techniques, ODFW creates the erroneous impression that Oregon has by far the highest cougar population in the nation.

Studies show that trophy hunting of cougars exacerbate conflicts with humans, pets and livestock because when adult cats are removed – particularly resident adult males – younger, less experienced cats move into those vacancies, and they are the individuals most likely to engage in livestock predation.