

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

I am writing to support SB 769 because it gives us a chance to protect the balance between cougar populations and other wildlife—like mule deer and elk—without imposing a blanket policy on every county. As an active outdoorsman, I've observed a real decline in our deer herds. Current cougar management appears largely ineffective, given that thousands of tags are issued annually but yield very few harvested cougars. Regulated hound hunting has proven to be an effective, humane and practical method of managing cougar populations. This bill simply allows each county to choose whether to permit hound hunting, without forcing anyone to adopt the practice. This flexible approach is more equitable than a statewide, one-size-fits-all rule and it respects the voices of local voters who know the conditions on the ground.

Sincerely,
Brad Hayes