

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

I am fully in Support of SB 769 and look forward to your Yes vote on this bill.

Please Remember- Measure 18 did not give cougars any special 'protections', it only hamstrung how we the tax paying Public can hunt them. Tags are still issued and they are still hunted. But now instead we pay the government hunters to hunt them and we even pay them to use dogs to hunt them, while denying the Oregon tax payers the same opportunity. Hounds are in fact STILL used to hunt cougar in Oregon, so I would have to say that hound hunting must not be the problem and is the safest most humane way to control the numbers. The other difference is we tax payers are restricted by ODFW laws of what we can take and will still be restricted to the same ODFW laws under SB 769, but the government hunter can in fact take any animal, any age, no restrictions. The humane and smart way is to allow counties to decide for themselves what is best for their area.

Also, multiple studies have shown that when adult cats are not taken out, the young cats that have to leave their mother's territory have no place to go but into the towns to find easy prey on pets and small livestock. That is why you will see mostly young or very old cats that got pushed out of their territory are the ones being removed as problem cats in towns. Plus when that adult cat is removed, several young cats are able to successfully take over that huge territory left open.

In closing, our wildlife should not be managed my emotions. We pay ODFW good money to manage them, let's LET them manage them the best and most humane way they know works. And at least allow rural counties to make their own decisions on what best affects their county and the wildlife around them.

Please vote YES on SB 769
David W. Wurdinger