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

As a longtime resident of southwest Oregon and a wildlife ecologist I am astonished and disturbed to be revisiting this unpleasant issue yet again.

There is no definitive data on the viability of Oregon's cougar population and broad scale analysis has been or is being done for the species.

Cougars are an umbrella species that regulate many components of the terrestrial ecosystem and broad scale killing of the species is known to have detrimental effects on the system overall. Washington State University analysis shows that lethal control of cougars actually results in increased livestock damage complaints by targeting individuals unlikely to cause the complaints and releasing individuals that cause them.

Oregon voters and the legislature voted repeatedly against initiating hound hunting for apex predators and it is time that such efforts be permanently suspended.