

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

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 769 because it restores local control over wildlife management—something our diverse state critically needs. As a large landowner in Eastern Oregon, my family and I run a substantial cattle operation and are among the state's top beef producers. We have witnessed firsthand the damage that uncontrolled predators inflict on both our livestock and the wild game—deer and elk—that share our ranch.

SB 769 would empower counties to decide whether to allow hound hunting as a targeted tool for cougar management. Importantly, this local option does not remove the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's oversight; season dates, quotas, and regulations would still be set based on science. Instead, it simply gives local voters a voice in tailoring solutions that best address their unique challenges, from livestock protection to preserving dwindling Deer and Elk herds.

This balanced, common sense approach respects both public safety and conservation, ensuring that regions most affected by predator conflicts can adopt proactive and selective measures. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness,
Brandon Nelson