

Submitter: Blain Mcconkey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB769

I support SB 769 I have seen first hand deer and elk population decline in recent years and cougar sightings go way up and especially during daylight hours. Being that some 30 years ago people would go a life time without seeing a single one or maybe one. Now they have gotten so hungry they are becoming less nocturnal. While 30 years ago the deer and elk population was at an amazing level. While hunting with dogs is not as popular as it was in times past I believe it could be something needs to be done to balance the predator problems. And bring our big game numbers back to a healthy number so when hunting season is upon us more Hunters have a chance at big game. Also,

I support SB 769 because I've seen the impact that unchecked cougar populations can have on rural communities and wildlife. While I value Oregon's cougar population and want it to remain healthy, I also recognize that in some regions, proactive management is needed to protect livestock and help recover our dwindling deer and elk herds. The flexibility of this bill stands out. It respects the will of local voters, who can decide if hound hunting is an acceptable practice. By doing so, counties can address issues before they become emergencies. This measure is not about diminishing cougars. It's about balance in wildlife.