

To Whom this may concern,

First my name is Megan Lockwood, an avid outdoors woman. I am chairman for the National Trappers Association's She Side, active professional representative of Women of the Wild non profit organization, active member/scorer for Ohio's Buckeye Big Buck club, and active member Ohio State Trappers Association. I believe I have the education and experience to voice about this proposed bill SB 769, even as a non-resident of Oregon. SB 769 offers a targeted solution for communities struggling to balance cougar populations with declining deer and elk herds. Under this bill, each county's voters can decide whether to allow hound hunting while retaining crucial oversight by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), which will continue to set seasons, quotas, and regulations. This means no county would be forced to adopt hound hunting, and any harvesting would still occur under Oregon's longstanding science-based management framework.

A single Cougar/Mtn. lion on average kills 56 mule deer in a year. Now as a top predator they do deserve to thrive as well but with proper management. Allowing the state of Oregon's individual counties to have the final say in hound hunting regulations and quotas is the right thing to do. The reality is, it's the local county residents who are affected daily by the cougar population not the state as a whole. With high number predator populations the local wild food sources diminish as well over time as the predator/prey ratio becomes out of balance. That is wild game food sources for both human and animal use. Number one food source for cougars are mule deer in Oregon, along with Elk. A solitary cougar is more than capable of taking down a 800+ pound bull elk.

Recently in October 2024 in Eugene Oregon, a cougar entered the barn and killed 13 Angora goats. average cost of a single Angora kid goat ranges from \$300-\$500 US dollars. \$3900-\$6500 in just the cost alone of 13 baby goats. That could be the cost to replace those goats. Eric Lee, Depredation Control Specialist of Oregon worked on this case for the landowner. "From Lee's point of view and the people he works with, in the 30 years since that law(Measure 18 of 1994) was passed, cougar attacks have become a serious issue. Lee said this has caused a high enough frequency of attacks that the cougars are no longer afraid of human structures."(cited from [https://www.kezi.com/news/more-than-a-dozen-goats-killed-by-cougar-at-farm-outside-of-eugene/article\\_96885e06-8b5f-11ef-baf0-db75ecfc1404.html](https://www.kezi.com/news/more-than-a-dozen-goats-killed-by-cougar-at-farm-outside-of-eugene/article_96885e06-8b5f-11ef-baf0-db75ecfc1404.html)) Lee is a professional predator trapper. After speaking with him personally on this issue, he receives on average 4 separate calls a month from farmers, ranchers, or landowners about a nuisance cougars. In 2024, he worked 60 nuisance cougar calls, with 27 successful harvests. He has had 3 successful nuisance cougar harvests in 2025 already to date. Since 2020 Lee has had success with removing 51 lions. He has a 40% success rate, after collecting the last four years of data alone, only 40% of the lions that killed livestock came back to feed on the dead. The other 60% of cougars that killed livestock, killed to kill without returning to the kill site. This is just one professional trapper in the state of Oregon, I'm positive there are more professionals with similar data through out your state.

In 2018 the state of Oregon had a fatal attack between a cougar and a female hiker around Mount Hood. This fatality was the first documented human killing by a cougar in the state since the late 1800's. Top predators including Oregon's cougar population has increased rapidly over the last 30 years. One cougar vs. human attack fatality is more than enough to instill proper hunting techniques including hunting with the aid of dogs.

Hound hunting is just another tool used to hunt. When regulated, like all other forms of hunting legal in Oregon, it can provide accurate data on harvests, accurate data and gps coordinates for ranges on released cats, and help manage nuisance predatory cats that have human or livestock conflict history. Not all cats or bears tracked with the aid of dogs are harvested. Most hunters do not want to harvest immature animals, or wet females, as we love the game we pursue, we want these species around for many future generations to come. Hence why our take of renewable resources are highly regulated at state level. Many other states within our great nation regulate hunting with hounds. Quotas are filled with hound hunting along with legal trapping and other hunting methods in these states. Hound training is even regulated and requires permits to train dogs for hunting game animals in some states. Hunting a large ambush predator like a mountain lion, who can be active both day and night but in heavily populated or pressured areas is mainly nocturnal, already has enough disadvantages. These large cats survive because of their elusive nature, tracking a cougar with hounds is one of the most physical hunts a hunter will experience in a lifetime. The rigid terrain, steep rocky cliffs, snow and slippery conditions, blow downs, creek and river crossings, you never know where those tracks will take you.

In conclusion, by allowing counties to regulate their own hunting practices, SB 769 offers a flexible, community-driven approach to wildlife management while preserving Oregon's science-based conservation practices through ODFW. This will generate local incomes for rural or mountain communities. Along with state revenue through licenses and permits. I truly am in support of SB 769 as a non-resident to Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Miss. Megan Lockwood

Cincinnati, Ohio