

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

I support SB 769. I believe that each area is different and there are certainly Counties where cougar populations are definitely on the rise and farmers/ranchers and even some people on the outskirts of town are seeing animals killed. More and more cougars are being caught on game cameras closer in to town than they normally are. I've seen a decline in deer and elk populations where we hunt and it's attributed to cougars.

By allowing individual counties to decide whether to permit hound hunting, we give local communities a voice while still respecting the importance of cougars in our ecosystem. This approach is not about wiping out cougars; it's about maintaining sustainable wildlife populations and responsibly managing Oregon's natural resources.

I understand ODFW will still be setting the rules and regulations so it's not terribly different. We must control animal populations however when one of our most effective ways of safely taking an animal is restricted then the effectiveness of population control goes down. Our sanctioned hunters are just too busy to be effective with all of the requests put in around the state.

Thank you for consideration of my opinion.

Melody Kind