

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

I am in support of SB769. it has been over 30 years since the dog ban has been in place, and the data shows the negative outcome. cougar numbers are at an all-time high, livestock depredations are at an all-time high.

I am a predator control specialist, I work on livestock cougar depredation issues for livestock owners in west Oregon. since 2020 I have taken 51 nuisance cougars that have killed livestock, and work on many more kills with no closure because the cat didn't come back.

odfw, usda, are completely overwhelmed to take on this task, they simply cannot keep up with all the depredation issues, that's why I do what I do, I was ground zero. it is a huge issue in my area as well as all over the state. specific counties should have the right to vote yes or no for their county. not all counties are having these issues, so it is unfair to have a blanket law to cover all.

I have stood in barns where a cougar has killed 25 heritage sheep and spread death throughout and completely decimating a cultured herd of exotic sheep, I have tried to comfort the 13 yr old girl that is standing over the ripped up carcass of her 4h goat that she raised from a baby, I have hoisted the carcasses into the back of a truck alongside the crying landowners that just pet them hours before, I have searched properties to help find a missing goat for a distraught land owner only to find it buried and torn apart. these are just a fraction of what I deal with almost on the daily. they are boots on the ground facts and they are way to common.

please take all of this into consideration and trust the recent data. using hounds is the absolute best way to effectively hunt or pursue these lions. these aren't like hunting deer or an elk, they are a completely different challenge and a near impossible task. 85% of hunter harvest are by accident, meaning a hunter just happen to catch a cat in a clearcut and had a tag in his pocket. we need to change to the times, every year we change tag sales, hunt units, fishing quotas, bag limits, etc. but this law has stood for too long and we have to change it for the future. thank you for your time.

Eric Lee