

2/7/25

This is a testimony in support of SB769. Due to cougar populations increasing and becoming dangerous in rural Oregon, I believe that allowing hounds to hunt and control these animals is not only beneficial but necessary.

Allowing each county to not enforce, but offer the option of using these methods will allow those with the knowledge and skill greater success in the thinning of populations.

We are seeing increases in the Lane County area with loss of livestock, and pets. It is only a matter of time before tragedy involving a child is reported. Farmers such as myself, particularly with small livestock are particularly vulnerable. Our ranch has gone so far as to install cameras, extra lighting, and reinforcing barns, but population control is necessary. As a riding instructor specializing in children with ponies, we are concerned with outdoor riding in pastures with tall grasses and or vegetation. This affects all aspects of feeding, caring for our animals, and daily activities. We have seen reports of these animals entering barns and killing small animal herds in mass numbers. They are becoming braver and more dangerous to families farms and businesses.

This bill is a common sense approach to allowing enhanced methods of population control in areas that need it, while not affecting those who are opposed to the practice.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter

Respectfully

Torrie Thompson