

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

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 769. Hunting of cougars with dogs serves no legitimate purpose and will not make humans, companion animals or farmed animals safer. Research has found that overhunting of cougars increases the likelihood of conflict with humans because hunting results in populations with larger percentages of young lions, which are most commonly involved in livestock depredations and other conflicts.

Furthermore, scientific studies clearly show that killing cougars threatens not only their species; it has a negative effect on non-target species in the ecosystem as well. As a keystone species, cougars play a crucial role in ecosystems—they have more interactions with other species than any other carnivore studied. Killing them will not only upset their prey populations, but also negatively impact all other ecosystem members, including plants, insects, birds and fish.

Indiscriminate killing is also cruel and unethical—in any county—which led Oregon voters to ban it statewide in 1994. Please oppose this harmful bill.

Sincerely,
Eileen Stark