

Submitter: Matthew Staigle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB769

I am in support of SB 769. I spend countless hours in the woods and I have noticed a major decline in elk and deer populations, since the ban of hunting cougars with hounds. While in the woods I've seen a lot of cougar predation on deer and elk, more than other species of predator. I also saw where one adult cougar was killed and eaten by another, which I figured is due to overcrowding of cougar populations in Oregon. I have seen 5 cougars within city limits of Oregon towns and have been stalked by them in daylight. I know people who have lost pets to cougars in their yards. I have noticed cougar tracks going through peoples yards along side their house. To me there are many reasons to conclude that the cougar population is too high in Oregon. I believe that hunting cougars with hounds is the best option as it gives the ability to evaluate the animal and to ethically harvest the right cougars in order to achieve a healthy population.

Sincerely,
Matthew Staigle