

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

I oppose SB 769 because hunting cougars with dogs is cruel no matter where it occurs. As a lifelong Oregonian originally from a rural area, it's important to me that Oregon voters banned this practice statewide in 1994 when they approved Ballot Measure 18. We need to protect what wildlife we have left and listen to the scientists when it comes to the food chain and how it can impact humans in the future. Scientific research shows that hunting cougars with dogs will not make people, pets or farm animals safer or increase populations of other problematic animals such as deer and elk. I fear that hunting cougars with dogs will in fact move them out of their narrowing habitat areas and into the path of humans, creating undesirable human-animal interactions and conflicts. Please consult the ecological science community before messing with a native apex species. Small changes can have big effects.