

Submitter: John Walker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB769

I support SB 769 due to of the influx of neighborhood cougar sightings and livestock killing in our area. I am 73 years old and fourth-generation occupant of land acquired by the Walker family in accordance with the Land Act of 1820. My land is located in Lane County Mapleton, Oregon. The need for hunting hounds is crucial to discourage the bold and deadly cougar habits that is all too common in our area. Hounds are an important element for predator control in order to protect domestic animals, livestock and at times, humans, from brutal attacks. Our family has 30 head of ma cows that calve out in the spring. Over my life span cougars have attacked and killed calves weighing up to 250 pounds. When cougar become a menace to farms and family homes, I feel it is my obligation to protest Oregon's statewide ban on hunting hounds. From my experience, cougar kills all wildlife in an area and move on to prey on the domestic animals in that area. I've seen it time and time again. I urge the board to take a very hard look at this bill. It is another tool in predator management and is more that reasonable due to the destruction they have caused. It appears that if SB 769 passes, hunting will have the oversight of the ODFW which should help monitor the hound hunter. Thank you for allowing my testimony and taking my input under consideration when you make your decision.
Respectfully submitted,
John Walker