

Submitter: Cindy Koch
On Behalf Of: SB 769
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

I'm in support of SB 769 for many reasons. In 1994 our right to hunt and pursue bears and cougars with the aid of dogs was taken from hunters who supported game management and contributed to the ODFW budget by purchasing hunting licenses and tags. Since then money is used from the general fund to pay for predator control when you have many hunters in the state who would pay the state for this opportunity to hunt cougars again using their dogs. Measure 18 was passed by very few counties, and the majority of the counties who passed it held high numbers in population and do not share the same problems that come with farming, ranching or living in the rural communities and predator danger. I'm also a firm believer that when these predators were hunted and pursued by dogs and their handlers we had fewer property owners with predator problems or encounters. They associated dogs and people as a threat rather than a meal. My family has spent many hours in the woods back in a day running our dogs, it was some of the best times spent together. We also contributed to many rural communities buying gas, groceries and supplies to take out on our hunts. A few other reasons, tags were sold for 50.00 and you could only hunt 3 months, now you can buy a tag for under \$20.00 and hunt all year. That seems to indicate you need more people hunting due to over population, which brings me to the fact that since the loss of hunting using dogs, the population of deer, elk and other big game animals have declined significantly. It would be a win win for the state, the communities and hunters if this was allowed.