

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

Hello,

As an Oregonian, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 769. This bill would overturn the will of the voters, who have already shown where they stand on this issue—twice. Oregonians are opposed to the hunting of cougars with hounds and want to keep their protections in place. This is a barbaric practice. Cougars are sentient creatures. They are highly intelligent animals with complex social structures and a range of emotions. Cougars are intelligent and elusive animals that are playful, curious, and emotional. They are capable of suffering, which warrants ethical consideration. Cougars are not loners, but rather have complex social systems with hierarchical groups. Male cougars play a large role in cougar society. They share hundreds of millions of years of evolutionary history with humans, resulting in similar physiology and nervous systems. Cougars are shy and avoid humans, but may attack if cornered or if a human stimulates their instinct to chase. We must learn how to live together or humanely destroy them IF absolutely necessary.

Please don't support this bill.

Janene Sumerfield
Hood River OR