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

I am appalled at the senseless decision to relentlessly kill cougars; what happened to wildlife management? We all know the reality is that millions of wild animals are killed each year with taxpayer money, protect and preserve are misnomers because that is not what happens. Research at OSU has already proven that the vanishing of the cougar in Yosemite is having a severe and degrading impact on plant communities. The loss of top predators means more deer, more destruction. We are closing in on their habitat and the Humane Society has noted there are a plethora of non-lethal measures available to serve the public and simultaneously protect wildlife. Quoting from their article, Let's use our supposed superior wisdom to find more humane approaches to protect wildlife as they try to survive the loss of their natural habitats. Let us relocate, conserve and protect rather than aimlessly destroy like savages from the past. Is it simply convenient to destroy rather than preserve and protect? We have options that are more civilized, please read the article by John Laundre in the Oregonian July 7, 2019; killing cougars will only worsen conflicts. He makes logical and rational sense. This is wrong in so many ways please don't approve this. We are supposed to be dedicated at this point in our evolution to be compassionate and if our first response is to kill, what message are we sending our children? Also it seems that F&W inflates the number of cougars, they are actually in decline according to latest research, as their habitat has dwindled extensively. What good is it being intelligent if we are just going to take a gun and shoot animals because there is a problem and we refuse to accept their undeniable value? Carnivore conservation: shifting the paradigm from control to coexistence by B. Bergstrom, a good evaluation of the problem.