

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

My name is Mark Boyer and I am in support of SB 769. Hound hunting is the only ethical way to hunt cougars. Currently more female and sub-adult cats are killed due to chance hunting. (When a hunter stumbles across one usually while hunting other species) These females and young cats never get the chance to grow up. If you truly care about cougars you will re-instate hound hunting on a county by county basis. This will allow hunters to target mature Toms. Mature toms often push younger cats and females out of their range which creates the conflict with the public. In 1994 Oregon voted out the method of take not hunting. The state currently contracts with wildlife services and other state agents to help control conflict. I do not fault any of these agents but do believe that we should use the public instead of paying agents to do so. There should be a vetting process that ODFW should over see. The animal activist crowd often creates new anti hunting bills every year. It has been 31 years since hound hunting was stolen from hunters and is time to revisit and give voters the option for re-instating. I believe the perspective would change knowing that the state still utilizes hound being how it is the ONLY effective way to hunt them. Thank you very much for your time and please take my voice into consideration.

Mark Boyer