

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

Dear Senators –

We are writing this evening to URGE you to SUPPORT SB 769. This would be a GREAT step towards protecting the remaining numbers of our deer and elk herds. The cougar concentrations are high and little to no balance since we stopped hunting with hounds.

SB769 allows without imposing a blanket policy on every county. We have grown up hunting, fishing and appreciating Oregon's Wildlife and we have witnessed our deer and elk herds are in an extremely concerning decline in the past 30 years.

Current cougar management efforts are largely ineffective, given that thousands of tags are issued annually but yield very few harvested cougars. Allowing counties to decide for themselves to permit hound hunting can really help local conditions. It makes sense that counties with active cougar conflicts have the option of using a proven method to manage these incredible predators. As a firm believer in responsible hunting practices and hound hunting, when regulated, can be both humane and practical.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve and Michaele Grabenhorst
Bend, Oregon