

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

I wish to express my support for SB 769 because I have witnessed declining deer herds and heard countless stories from fellow Oregonians concerned about cougar-related incidents.

With more than 70,000 cougar tags issued annually, the minimal harvest tells me we need to rethink our strategies. Native deer and elk heard numbers are decreasing drastically and before we know it, we won't have them anymore. We are letting them get pushed to endangered numbers. Especially the mule deer in eastern Oregon. Counties where cougars pose significant issues should have the opportunity to try a proven tool like hound hunting which dates back over 20,000 years. Used responsibly, hound hunting can help wildlife biologists and hunters selectively harvest cougars in a humane and ethical way.

This bill respects local voters and does not mandate uniform changes across the state. It is a thoughtful proposal that addresses both public safety and science-based wildlife conservation by allowing counties to choose what works best for them.

Respectfully,

Jami Diess