

**Subject:** Opposition to SB 769 – Uphold Oregon’s Ban on Hunting Cougars with Dogs

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to SB 769, which seeks to undermine Oregon’s long-standing prohibition on using dogs to hunt cougars. Oregon voters made their voices clear in **1994 when they passed Measure 18**, banning this cruel and unethical practice. SB 769 disregards the will of the people and threatens to reverse decades of progress in wildlife conservation and ethical hunting practices.

Hounding cougars is not only **inhumane**, but it also **violates the principles of fair chase** that ethical hunters uphold. The use of trained dogs to pursue and tree cougars—leaving them terrified and vulnerable—before being shot at close range is a practice widely condemned by wildlife experts and animal welfare advocates. This is not management; it is cruelty.

Moreover, there is **no scientific evidence** suggesting that lifting the ban would improve public safety or livestock protection. Studies consistently show that lethal predator control **does not reduce human-wildlife conflicts** and, in some cases, can even **increase depredation** by disrupting established cougar populations. Oregon’s current approach to managing cougars, based on sound science and responsible wildlife stewardship, is effective without resorting to outdated and brutal methods.

I urge you to **respect the will of Oregon’s voters** and reject SB 769. Oregonians decided nearly 30 years ago that this practice has no place in our state, and that decision should not be overturned to serve special interests. Upholding ethical wildlife management and maintaining our commitment to humane treatment of animals is not just a political choice—it is a moral one.

Please vote **NO on SB 769**.

Sincerely,  
Michele Schiavello  
Eugene, Oregon