

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

Thank you Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the Committee:

My Name is Kevin Harlander, I live in Enterprise, Oregon and I strongly support SB 769. Oregon has long recognized the importance of local decision-making on contentious issues. We have seen this with cannabis regulations, where counties had the right to opt in or out, acknowledging that different parts of the state have different needs and values. This bill before you today specifically still allows and champions science based wildlife management, and in fact ensures that we try to balance the ecosystem in which live, work, and enjoy all forms of recreation. The bill before you is smart. It does not force any county to allow hunting cougars with hounds. It simply lets the people in each county decide for themselves.

As a hunter, I value the ability to be a part of the ecosystem. I, and most hunters I know, care deeply about balanced ecosystems, which include balanced game, fish, and all wildlife populations. Until we recognize the notion that if we manage one population, we must manage them all, we will continue to see important species on our landscape disappear.

I'm going to be a dad for the first time in April. It is my dream and my hope that my kids will simply be able to live in a place where healthy populations of mule deer, cougars, bears, elk and all other native species thrive. We have a chance here to at least try to balance our predator population and ensure a natural ecosystem future for our kids. I believe in SB 769 and I urge you to also support it.