

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

I am a voter from Medford. I oppose the "opt-out" provision to exempt a county from Oregon's long-standing limitation on hunting or pursuing cougars with hounds. Effectively, this exemption would result in a "blood sport" being permitted in some, but not all, counties. These animals do not recognize county lines and retaining our long-standing, voter-approved limitations over all counties in the state is the most effective way to ensure their continued place in our habitat. This exemption also would set a precedent for extending blood-sports to other species. I believe that sensible provisions already exist to permit eradication of individual cougars who threaten property or public safety, or to carry out state wildlife management objectives. I oppose SB 769 and support our current measures applicable statewide.