

Submitter: Beatrice Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB769

I vehemently oppose SB 769. Hunting cougars with hounds is inhumane, and as a trophy hunt for sport and recreation it is barbaric. Haven't we moved beyond this? We have created a situation of bringing cougars out into people areas by moving into their areas. Any hunting done must only be in extreme circumstances, i.e. the cougar has become an imminent danger to a person's life. That is still exceptionally rare. Other than that, totally unnecessary and another cause for imbalance to the ecosystem. Cougars prey on many animals, including deer and elk. That helps keep the population of the latter down. That's what I mean by a balance.

I urge you to NOT support SB 769. We need to move forward. The voters were in support of Measure 18. They spoke. We need to be protecting our wildlife, predators included.

Thank you for considering my testimony.