

Submitter: Wi Hart
On Behalf Of: The People of Harney County
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislative Assembly.

I support and would like to ask for the passage of SB 769.

Mountain lions, also known as cougars, have no natural predators as they are considered an apex predator. Uncontrolled mountain lion populations directly affect public safety, the economy, and the balance within an ecosystem. With Harney County being comprised of over 80% public land, the mountain lion has uncontrolled potential for population growth. The effects of overpopulation of the mountain lion species are a primary concern to local communities and counties.

With the exception of public order and safety laws, it is not right for any sector of society to dictate or regulate matters affecting other communities. As enacted in 1973, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted a statute delegating to all counties the power to enact local legislation on matters of county concern, Statutory Home Rule. The passage of SB 769 will restore a small balance of home rule self-governance to the citizens of Oregon Counties as I believe it was intended.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital piece of legislation that either way can and will have a major effect on the citizens of Harney County and the State of Oregon.

Bill Hart
Harney County Judge