

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

Cougars have had a really tough time since humans entered their world. Thoughtful caring people can never rest easy in their efforts to protect them, as the introduction of SB 769 to the Oregon Legislature proves. Thankfully many of those people have written in opposition of this bill. I join them. And I agree with all the arguments they submit in opposition. As Oregonians we must not cave into the minority of supporters who offer weak claims about the negative impacts that cougars supposedly have on the environment and farmers who usurp their habitat and then offer a smorgasbord of farm animals into that habitat and whine when these starving cougars attack those poor animals in order to survive. Most concerning are the hunters who want to improve their chances at killing these animals for sport by adding hunting dogs into the mix. Cougars deserve a fighting chance to preserve their species. In Oregon, people, a majority of these voting people, have given them that chance twice. I fervently urge this committee to give cougars another chance. If you can do that, the focus on getting rid of them for the benefit of hunters with dogs who kill for sport and farmers who introduce farm animals into wildlife habitats, will shift to more positive efforts. Cougars and farmers will thrive in noncompetitive environments. Hunters will find opportunities and satisfaction in other non lethal gun related activities.

Sincerely,
Christine Haynie
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Thank you for considering my comments.