

Submitter: Veronica Newton Hudson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

Allowing an exemption to a cruel and barbaric practice is retrogressive and doesn't seem designed to address the problem, if there is one. Cougars are a natural predator within the state and as is the case with most large predators, the problem lies with the humans they encounter rather than the other way around.

If there is a need to control the population of cougars in some areas then hunting with dogs is not the way to do it. The State has an organization (Fish and Wildlife) that is expert in the management of wildlife populations and trained to achieve this humanely as and when necessary. Allowing domestic dogs to hunt cougar is cruel to both cougars and dogs and the death of either or both can be slow and painful in these situations. Also, collateral damage to other wildlife is highly likely unless the dogs used are highly skilled and properly trained and controlled.

Essentially this bill would allow a patchwork of safe and unsafe (for wildlife) counties across the state because if the bill passes and cougar are hunted with dogs it won't be long before other animals are included under exemption and Oregon's 'green' imagine will be more than tarnished. We need top predators like cougar to support and maintain our ecosystems which are very difficult to recover if lost. I oppose this bill.