

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

I have lived in Wallowa County for 45 years spending most of our time in the forest. I have noticed a significant decrease in the deer population since hound hunting was not allowed for cougars and bears, and significant increase in the predator population.

I am not a rancher but have deep respect for the industry, think of your food source, it doesn't start at Safeway etc., and know that this has had an instrumental impact on their operations. Consider their testimonials seriously.

Cougars are still being killed and hunted with hounds and trapped by paid government hunters. With the passage of this bill the state would create revenue allowing hunters to be an asset to the ODFW.

Passing a Bill does not mean that YOU have to hunt with hounds but recognize it has a place in our rural ecosystem. I would not attempt to tell Urban areas what to do with their neighborhoods it's not a lifestyle I'm familiar with. In return we ask for the same consideration.

I stress that they are still being hunted with hounds, Oregon is paying for that. Turn that around and create revenue and allow ODFW to do their job.

Thank You for your consideration,
Richelle Chitwood