

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

Hello and thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony.

As an avid outdoorsman, this is a very important matter I feel very strongly about. Oregon's deer herds (especially those in the eastern part of the state) have dramatically decreased since banning hounds for the use of hunting cougars. I've seen this first hand in the 20 plus years of deer hunting that the Mule deer population has continually declined. It's truly saddening that an eco-system that could sustain healthy deer herds no longer has that potential to due so because of the lack in management on predators.

This brings me to my final key point. Something needs to change!!! Despite those against this bill there is another key piece to this that I'm sure many are unaware of. ODFW pays government trappers to trap cougars in heavily populated areas to have them removed. Which are taxes we have to pay due to those that oppose this bill. If this bill passed and tags were allotted to hunters to use hounds it would not only alleviate an expense for tax payers but would generate revenue for the department as hunters pay for those tags.

In conclusion, allowing the use of hounds to harvest cougars would not only bring back deer populations to the healthy numbers they used to be but also generate revenue for conservation and the ODFW.

Thank you again and I hope you take into consideration my thoughts on the passing of this bill.