

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

March 12, 1997 Hearing Room C

8:30 AM Tapes 53 - 54

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Bob Kintigh, Chair

Sen. Bill Fisher, Vice-Chair

Sen. Bill Dwyer

Sen. Ted Ferrioli

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Veral Tarno

Sen. Thomas Wilde

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Glen Stonebrink, Administrator

Brad Harper, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2219 Public Hearing & Work Session

SB 402 Public Hearing

SB 403 Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

Tape/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 53, A		
003	Chair Kintigh	Chair convenes meeting at 8:05 AM and opens public hearing on HB 2219.
<u>HB 2219</u> <u>PUBLIC</u>		

<u>HEARING</u>		
010	Rep. Terry Thompson	Supports HB 2219.
015	Kay Brown	Representing Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Discussion of \$1,000 limit provision and support for HB 2219.
031	Joe Rohleder	Representing Oregon Steelheaders. Supports HB 2219.
035	Chair Kintigh	Closes public hearing on HB 2219 and opens work session on HB 2219.
<u>HB 2219 WORK SESSION</u>		
040	Sen. Tarno	MOTION: Moves HB 2219 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
		VOTE: 4-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. EXCUSED: 3 - Ferrioli, Fisher, Wilde
	Chair Kintigh	The motion CARRIES. SEN. TARNO will lead discussion on the floor.
061	Chair Kintigh	Opens public hearing on SB 402 and SB 403.
<u>SB 402 & SB 403 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
074	Sen. Tarno	Sponsor of SB 402 & SB 403. Discussion of effects of measure 18 and purpose of "Cougar Free Zone Bill."
134	Sen. George	Supports cougar control.
176	Sen. Ferrioli	Discussion of increasing contacts between humans and cougars, as well as predation on livestock, deer and elk. Supports cougar control.
212	Chuck Levin	Representing Mazamas. Opposes to both SB 402 & 403. Proposed legislation contravenes Oregon voters' decision on this issue. Current law is sufficient because it allows police and livestock owners to kill cougars.
255	Sen. Fisher	Question regarding limitations under current law.
264	Levin	Response
275	Sen. Fisher	Comment
277	Levin	Asserts that it is necessary to protect cougar populations.
284	Sen. Dwyer	Cougars are not "vanishing predators."

295	Levin	Concludes testimony
300	Sen. Ferrioli	Discussion of conflict between urban and rural values.
343	Levin	Comment
355	Sen. Ferrioli	Response
365	Levin	Further discussion of Mazamas' concerns.
384	Sen. Tarno	Question regarding Mazamas organization.
388	Levin	Discussion of Mazamas.
400	Chair Kintigh	Notes that Measure 18 was defeated in almost every county but Multnomah.
412	Sen. Dwyer	Comments that Measure 18 was never necessary and current cougar management is not effective.
TAPE 54,A		
024	Levin	Response
035	Sen. Dwyer	Problems occur when inexperienced young cougars are driven out of rural areas into urban interface.
059	Levin	Disagrees with absence of public notice in proposed legislation.
062	Sen. Ferrioli	Public interest ensures that citizens will be involved in process at local level.
079	Sen. Dwyer	Question regarding "consumptive use" of wildlife.
083	Levin	Response
084	Sen. George	Question regarding how much cougar habitat is adequate. Discussion of current cougar management problems.
106	Levin	Response
108	Sen. George	Discussion of cougar problems in Yamhill county. Question regarding habitat.
116	Levin	Response
118	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of size of average habitat for male cougar.
125	Sen. Ferrioli	Discussion of cougar issue.
140	Sen. Fisher	Further discussion of cougar problem.
162	Sen. Wilde	Comments regarding urban perspective on wildlife issues. Opposes to SB 402 & SB 403.
188	Roger	Former Oregon legislator. Supports SB 402 & 403. Previously supported concept of cougars as game animals providing management to Department of Fish & Wildlife. Dramatic increase in cougar population

	Martin	over last 30 years has exceeded the capacity of Oregon. Considering that each cougar requires approximately 10 square miles, the current conflict with people was inevitable.
258	Martin	Urban citizens of Portland are making wildlife management decisions on issues with which they have no direct experience. Rural citizens are becoming increasingly angry that their concerns are being ignored.
293	Sally Mackler	Represents Southern Oregon citizens. Opposes to SB 402 & 403. Submits written material (EXHIBIT A).
320	Chair Kintigh	Question
325	Mackler	Discussion of Measure 34.
350	Sen. Dwyer	Measure 18 was passed only by Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah counties.
355	Mackler	Recent vote on Measure 34 reflects education of voters on issue.
369	Sen. Dwyer	Comment
370	Mackler	Response
378	Sen. Fisher	Comparison of Measures 18 & 34.
388	Mackler	Discussion of Measure 34 language and need to respect voters' previous decisions on these issues.
TAPE 53,B		
031	Sen. Tarno	Question regarding whether a cougar attack on humans is necessary precursor to changing current cougar management practices.
035	Mackler	Believes that current law provides sufficient protection. Concerns regarding "safety zone" provision of SB 402.
045	Sen. Tarno	Explanation regarding intent of proposed legislation.
057	Mackler	Discussion of scientific evidence.
070	Sen. Dwyer	Policy behind cougar hunting depends on prevalence of cougars near urban areas. Underpopulation discourages hunting and serves public policy.
098	Mackler	Some hunters willing to travel great distances for opportunity to hunt male cougars.
105	Sen. Dwyer	Disagrees and points out that hunting of male cougars provides additional habitat for other cougars.
112	Mackler	Response
117	Sen. Dwyer	Comment
124	Mackler	Concern regarding specific "sport hunting" language of SB 402.
139	Sen. Dwyer	Discussion of wildlife management issues.
150	Mackler	Comment regarding SB 402 & 403.

160	Lila Phillips	Citizen from Jackson County. Opposes SB 402 & 403. Submits written materials (EXHIBIT B). Notes that legislation contravenes voters decisions on previous measures. Does not agree that cougar issues pits urban and rural citizens against each other.
200	Sen. Fisher	Disagrees with Phillips' comment that many hunters are killed each year.
210	Phillips	Response
212	Chair Kintigh	Notes that cougars have killed people in California and Canada.
215	Sen. Dwyer	Questions how SB 403 contravenes will of Oregon voters.
222	Phillips	Response
225	Sen. Dwyer	Neither Measure 34 nor Measure 18 has any conflict with SB 403.
240	Phillips	Believes hunting cougars must be made as difficult as possible.
242	Sen. Dwyer	Disagrees and believes that voters had issue with method of hunting cougars, not the process of hunting itself.
258	Phillips	Opposes SB 402 & 403.
269	Cheri Briggs	Representing Predator Defense Institute. Opposes SB 402 and SB 403. Submits written materials (EXHIBIT C). Believes that recent cougar sightings are exaggerated and unconfirmed.
305	Sen. Dwyer	Question whether Briggs believes that cougar sightings were untrue.
307	Briggs	Response
320	Sen. Dwyer	Question
328	Briggs	Further discussion of cougar sightings.
365	Sen. Fisher	Question regarding conflicting statements within Briggs' testimony.
389	Briggs	Explanation of sources of cougar information.
400	Sen. Fisher	Comment
405	Briggs	Further discussion of cougar issues.
TAPE 54,B		
010	Chair Kintigh	Comment
012	Briggs	Further discussion.
019	Sen. Dwyer	Question
026	Chair Kintigh	Comments
	Nancy	Representing Humane Society of United States. Opposes SB 402 & 403. Submission of written materials (EXHIBIT D). Discussion of

038	Perry	correlation between Measure 18 and current cougar population problems. Asserts that sport hunting increases cougar problems.
116	Chair Kintigh	Supports local control over animal management issues. Notes that voters rejected initiative to limit legislature's ability to change initiative measures.
132	Perry	Comment
134	Chair Kintigh	Discussion of legislative practice.
142	Perry	States that cougar issue is settled.
145	Chair Kintigh	Notes that voters have never decided cougar zone issue.
157	Carey Theil	Citizen from Portland. Opposes SB 402 & 403. Submits written testimony. (EXHIBIT E) . Discusses past initiative efforts regarding cougar issues.
170	Chair Kintigh	Comments
178	Theil	Further discussion of initiative process.
209	Chair Kintigh	Purpose of committee hearing is to address both sides of the cougar issue.
216	Theil	Response
225	Chair Kintigh	Comment
238	Paula Wilson	Citizen from Clackamas. Opposes SB 402 & 403. Submits written testimony. (EXHIBIT F) . Asserts that current law is adequate to address cougar problems.
280	Cornelia Cerf	Citizen from Clackamas. Opposes SB 402 & 403. Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT G) . Believes that proposed legislation would "nullify" previous voters' initiatives.
319	Chair Kintigh	Question
322	Cerf	Response
330	Kelly Peterson	Citizen of Multnomah County. Opposes SB 402 & 403. Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT H) . Recommends that legislature respect voter initiatives. Does not support hunting with hounds.
426	Chair Kintigh	Adjourns meeting at 10:25 AM.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Brad Harper Glen Stonebrink

Administrative Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - SB 402 & 403, written materials, Sally Mackler, 4 pp.

B - SB 402 & 403, written materials, Lila Phillips, 3 pp.

C - SB 402 & 403, written materials, Cheri Briggs, 27 pp.

D - SB 402 & 403, written materials, Nancy Perry, 4 pp.

E - SB 402 & 403, written testimony, Carey Theil, 2 pp.

F - SB 402 & 403, written testimony, Paula Wilson, 1 p.

G - SB 402 & 403, written testimony, Cornelia Cerf, 2 pp.

H - SB 402 & 403, written testimony, Kelly Peterson, 7 pp.
