

Act Now to Save South Dakota's Cougars

We are writing with an urgent action request!! The SD State Senate is on the verge of passing **House Bill 1004** which contains the following:

"Any person, **licensed or unlicensed, may kill a mountain lion** if reasonably necessary to protect the life of that person or some other person. Any person, licensed or unlicensed, who owns or cares for livestock or pets, may **kill any mountain lion posing an imminent or perceived threat to such person's livestock or pets.**"

This dangerous, anti-cougar bill would allow ANYONE to kill a cougar at ANYTIME for ANY REASON since the bill states that a threat need only be perceived, not imminent. No state makes it illegal to kill a cougar in self defense and HB 1004 is a thinly-veiled attempt to establish a year round open season on cougars.

The bill only passed by 5 votes in the House and with your help it will be stopped in the Senate. This bill amounts to nothing more than an eradication measure that relegates cougars to vermin status once again.

The state Senators and Representatives MUST hear from their constituents who OPPOSE HB 1004 NOW! Please write your representatives today or pass this on to a friend in South Dakota. All SD state Senators/ Reps can be reached via email at the following addresses:

Sen.LASTNAME@state.sd.us (for example, sen.howie@state.sd.us)

Rep.LASTNAME@state.sd.us (for example, rep.turbiville@state.sd.us)

It's too close not to care!! Call or email your representative to say you care about cougars in South Dakota and oppose unregulated, unreasonable, unlicensed killing.

2/4/09