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Roadside

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Roadside

by Fred Alsberg

At a gas station
along the interstate
people in shades and tee shirts
gather round a cage
in the bed of a pickup.
Inside, a mountain lion
sits motionless.

His eyes, tan and wide,
stare off
toward a line of pale orange hills
far beyond the circled onlookers
and the small boy
wriggling fingers
through the bars.

