

This bill is horrible; very out of touch with farming reality. I understand that not everyone wants a fur garment. I also understand that not everyone wants to use marijuana. Consumers, both here and abroad, can and will decide what they want to purchase. In this case mink farmers are under attack for doing what they are good at and it is how they support themselves and their families.

In every production system there are tradeoffs. As mink producers, they provide a valuable outlet for byproducts that are otherwise going to the waste stream; these are excellent food for mink. Without this food chain, the sustainability reality for other parts of agriculture get worse. More to landfills? The saga of unintended consequences is in play here.

This proposal is not about human health; please do not ignore the science. All animal production facilities need to practice good biosecurity to reduce many different animal health risks. Every animal industry and even human populations face health challenges all the time. This will not change. Our current human Covid challenge is the perfect example and despite significant efforts it has been devastating. This did not come from mink or other farm animals. When a farm has an issue with the health of the animal they own, they work to solve that problem, whatever it is; cooperatively with government resources when mandated.

Our family farmers, most operating for generations, have earned the right to stay in farming. This legislation goes way to far and is driven by other hidden or not so hidden agendas. The answer is not to eliminate an industry. Please, do not move this legislation forward. Vote No.

Thank you