

I urge this committee to pass Senate Bill 832 out of committee. It is an important common sense measure we can take now to help stop the mutations and spread of viruses. We must follow the lead of other states and countries to address the dire health consequences of mink farms in Oregon.

Mink are susceptible to Covid-19 and have the ability to transmit the virus back to humans, potentially in a form that will render vaccines less effective. The virus may also spillover into nature and be impossible to track and control and could infect our native wild species.

The small number of mink farms in Oregon are raising mink for wealthy Chinese customers, because American consumers no longer buy fur. SB 832 will bring mink farming to an end, but also provide help to the mink farmers to transition to new commodities or other lines of work.

Thank you for supporting this important bill.