

I urge this committee to pass Senate Bill 832 out of committee. The COVID-19 crisis was born out of the mistreatment of animals – at live-wildlife markets. The virus started in animals and then moved on to humans, launching a global pandemic that has cost the world tens of trillions of dollars and more than two and a half million dead.

Minks raised for their fur on factory farms, mink are uniquely susceptible to COVID-19 and they can transmit the virus back to humans. What's more, with thousands of mink on farms, when an infection occurs, it can run through the population of the animals, potentially spawning a variant that may render our vaccines less effective.

SB 832 would phase out Oregon's mink farming industry and provide training and support to the mink farmers adversely affected by the virus. It will make our communities safer and it will stop the systemic mistreatment of these animals.

Thank you.