



Fur Industries of North America

March 31, 2021

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

RE: Opposition to SB 832

Chair Golden and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to you today in Opposition to Senate Bill 832. The Fur Industries of North America (FINA) is a coalition of trade associations representing fur trappers, farmers, manufacturers, and retailers in the US and Canada.

The authors of SB 832 are using misinformation and falsehoods in their justifications for the government's expropriation of Oregon's mink farms. The appropriate health agencies have determined that mink farms pose no threat to public health, that presently there is no current SARS-CoV-2 virus in Oregon mink, and that there is no evidence of virus in wildlife that may have been spread from farmed mink.

From an economic perspective, the animal rights proponents cite the exportation of American mink pelts to China as some sort of reasoning to ban production in Oregon. In 2019, Oregon exported \$7.2 billion in commodities to China, behind only Texas and California in volume. 40 percent of Oregon's agricultural exports head abroad, compared to 20 percent for the rest of the U.S. Agriculture in Oregon depends on exports, so the fact that the Chinese consumer wants Oregon mink should be a point of pride for the State.

Additionally, activist claims that the market for mink has declined are untrue. At the most recent auctions in December and early March, Oregon mink farmers earned 80%-100% higher prices than the previous year, and close to 100% in sales clearances. Global demand is strong.

I urge you to please rely on the data rather than rhetoric, and reject SB 832. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ryan Holt
President
Fur Industries of North America