As a farmer, I urge you to oppose SB 832.This bill is one of the worst bills I've ever seen!

I cannot believe that legislators would ever consider a bill that directs the government to take private property, and then they offer no compensation for the farm families who will lose their livelihoods under SB 832. Mink farmers are multigenerational operations with a long history in Oregon. Local farm families would have to give up everything, and kill and bury their animals immediately. To add insult to injury, SB 832 suggests that these families could apply for loans (after losing everything) or retrain for a new profession. It's offensive that the Committee would even consider this bill. Not only is it offensive, it's upsetting to see special interest groups attempt to shut down family farms. Particularly after such a devastating year, and to play on people's fear about COVID-19. I worry that this is the beginning of a new approach to close down other sectors of animal agriculture.

There is no scientific reason to shut down local mink farms. Zoonotic disease transmission is not uncommon, which is why Oregon's farmers and ranchers take biosecurity so seriously. The one mink farm with positive COVID-19 cases in November 2020, went into quarantine immediately and worked with the State Veterinarian and federal and state agencies to contain the virus. The farm is now clear of the virus, and we should consider this a success as opposed to misrepresenting this incident as a statewide threat.

Not only is the premise of this bill false, but Oregon's mink farms actually are part of a larger cycle of sustain ability. Mink consume food waste that would otherwise go to the dump. Their manure is used as a fertilizer for other sectors of agriculture. It's full cycle.

I urge you today to oppose this unfair legislation, which ultimately eliminates the livelihoods of Oregon farmers and without any compensation for the families or farmworkers who will be out of work.

Please vote NO on SB 832. Thank you for considering my comments.