

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

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.

I urge you 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.