

My name is Rusty Inglis and I am a rancher in Harney County. I am also the Chair of the Oregon Farm Bureau Livestock Committee. As a rancher, I am very concerned by the precedent for the livestock industry set by SB 832. I can't believe that the legislature is considering a bill that would direct the state to take private property, offer no compensation for the loss of animals, and ban an entire industry that supports dozens of families in Oregon. This bill would set a very dangerous precedent for the livestock industry in Oregon, and we are all watching closely to see what the legislature does.

As someone who has spent a significant portion of my life in the livestock industry, I can tell you we are very proactive about addressing any disease outbreaks in our herds, as I know the mink industry was with COVID-19. Indeed, I understand that the industry expects to be able to vaccinate their herds for COVID-19 in the coming months, and the only outbreak in Oregon was appropriately handled and did not spread beyond the impacted farm. That farm is now free of COVID-19. Zoonotic disease transmission is not uncommon in all animals, which is why Oregon's farmers and ranchers take biosecurity so seriously.

Like all of the livestock industry, Oregon's mink farms actually are part of a larger cycle of sustainability. 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 a full cycle.

As a livestock producer, I am disgusted that the legislature is entertaining anti-animal ag groups attempts to shut down multi-generational family farms. I know this is part of a larger effort to close down other sectors of animal agriculture. If the cattle industry were to have a single outbreak of foot and mouth disease or mad cow disease, would you close down the entire cattle industry in the state? 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 employees who will be out of work. Please vote NO on SB 832. Thank you for considering my comments.