

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our members and supporters across Oregon in support of SB 832, relating to mink farming.

At the Humane Society of the United States, it is our mission to fight against the worst forms of animal cruelty here in Oregon and elsewhere in the world. Unfortunately, there is simply no way to humanely produce fur. Fur farms, like the ones in Oregon, confine undomesticated mink in cramped cages and deprive them of the ability to engage in natural behaviors like swimming. Living in these conditions causes enormous stress, which can lead to self-mutilation and other issues. These animals are then killed by neck-breaking or crude gassing.

Fur production also causes major environmental pollution. Not only does the tanning and dying process use toxic chemicals like formaldehyde and chromium to prevent skin decay, but the runoff from animals on factory farms pollutes waterways and soil.

The concern for animal welfare continues to grow in Oregon and across the States, and consumers increasingly want products that do not involve animal cruelty. Companies are responding by aligning their policies with their customers' values and announcing fur-free policies. Oregon now has a chance to take an affirmative stand against the cruel practices and environmental harm inherent in the fur industry, as well as the COVID-19 related public health risks that continue to be prevalent. For these reasons, we respectfully ask that the members of the committee support the passage of SB 832.

Sincerely,
PJ Smith, Director of Fashion Policy
The Humane Society of the United States