



# HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on Senate Bill 832  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

April 4, 2021

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Heard and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

**Humane Voters Oregon supports Senate Bill 832.**

SB 832 would phase-out mink farming in Oregon. According to an August 2000 list of permitted "confined animal feeding operations" from the Oregon Department of Agriculture,<sup>1</sup> Oregon has 11 mink farms permitted to confine more than 400,000 animals – mostly in Marion and Linn counties. We support a phase-out of these facilities because:

- Mink farming forces animals that are genetically suited to live a free-roaming life in the wild to live instead in small metal cages and be slaughtered after living only a fraction of their normal lives.<sup>2</sup>
- Large populations of highly confined mink have been found particularly susceptible to zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19, which they may then spread to people and other animals.<sup>3</sup>
- Confined animal feeding operations for mink are resource intensive and have other detrimental environmental impacts – more so than textiles made to serve the same function.<sup>4</sup>
- Fur from the mink on Oregon fur farms goes into unnecessary, luxury goods. Simply put, the ends do not justify the means.

Thank you for considering our comments.

*Brian Posewitz*

Brian Posewitz  
Director

---

<sup>1</sup> Mink farms are required to have confined animal feeding operation permits to regulate their impacts on water quality.

<sup>2</sup> See Wikipedia, [Fur Farming](#).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., "[Mink are catching the coronavirus on farms — including one in Oregon](#)," Oregon Public Broadcasting (December 8, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> CE Delft - [The Environmental Impact of Mink Fur Production](#) (January 2011).