

Hello, I'm writing to ask your support for SB 832. Fur farming is not only cruel to animals and destructive to the environment, the past year has shown it's also a major threat to public health. Fur farms have exacerbated the spread of COVID-19, as mink are particularly susceptible to contracting and spreading the disease. Outbreaks have occurred on 300 fur farms across 10 countries, including one in Oregon. Millions of mink have died from the disease or were culled to prevent its spread. In Denmark, a mutated strain of the virus was transmitted back to humans and infected hundreds, endangering the efficacy of a vaccine.

Mink are wild animals endemic to the Pacific Northwest. They're also semi-aquatic and largely solitary with a territorial range of around 3 miles. Keeping thousands of them together in cramped cages not only spreads disease, it deprives them of any natural behavior, resulting in psychological distress and self-mutilation. Mink are slaughtered by suffocation, electrocution, or bludgeoning, at a fraction of their natural lifespan.

The cruelty inflicted on mink is out of alignment with our state's values of conservation and the humane treatment of animals. We can balance the need to protect public health and prevent animal cruelty with support for fur farmers to transition out of the industry. Thank you for the time and attention you're giving this issue.