

April 5, 2021
Sen. Jeff Golden, Chair
Committee Members
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery
RE: SUPPORT SB 832 TO PHASE OUT MINK FARMING AND PROTECT PUBLIC
HEALTH

I am an Animal Liberation Activist and Civil Rights Activist. I care about the health and well being of our citizens and Animals. Fur farming is not only unnecessary cruelty to the animals, but also a health risk to our citizen's, because fur farming has been linked to COVID-19. According to the World Animal Protection in the United States, there are 245 fur farms across 22 states, with over 7,000 minks dying from COVID-19, <https://www.worldanimalprotection.us/blogs/mutated-strain-covid-19-linked-mink-farming> Additionally fur farming is causing a new variant of the virus and it has a possibility of lowering the efficiency of COVID-19 vaccines. According to the Humane Society, confining mink in small wire cages for fur production not only causes severe suffering for the animals, it causes the conditions of the animals to spread pathogens causing covid-19. white paper
According to Newsweek, three minks escaped from a covid-19 infested mink farm and since been trapped ,two of which have tested positive for covid-19 and to make matters more dangerous it's open season for mink trapping which means more people could be exposed to the virus. <https://www.wweek.com/news/2021/01/14/two-escaped-farm-mink-test-positive-for-covid-19-during-mink-trapping-season/>

Also according to OPB
Center of Biological Diversity, an environmental group, states, mink that escape from fur farms could potentially spread the virus to other wildlife, and the escaped mink, on mink farms could also infect animals that eat an infected mink or its feces. With COVID 19 prevalent and taking so many lives I urge you to please pass this bill into law as mink farming is not only unnecessary cruelty it also spreads COVID 19. There are many other humane environmentally textiles that are safe to use without causing unnecessary cruelty, disease and death to animals and disease and death to our citizens. Please stop the spread of COVID-19 and end Animal cruelty.

Thank-You for your hard work and consideration on passing this bill into law.

With Gratitude

Jaime Ann Carleton

Animal Rights Liberation and Civil Rights Activist