



## **Oregon's Livestock Industry Opposes SB 832**

Our organizations represent livestock producers across the state of Oregon. We strongly oppose SB 832 and the dangerous precedent it sets for Oregon's livestock industry. We are deeply troubled that the legislature is considering banning any segment of Oregon's livestock industry and putting dozens of family operations out of business. SB 832 directs the government to take private property without any compensation for the farm families who would lose their livelihoods due to this proposal.

Oregon's mink farms are multigenerational operations with a long history in Oregon. Under SB 832, these farmers would have to kill and bury their animals immediately, with only the promise that these families may be eligible for loans in compensation for a complete government taking of their business. Our organizations and the producers we represent are uniformly horrified that the legislature considering putting an entire segment of Oregon's livestock industry out of business, and that proponents have the audacity to suggest that producers may be eligible for loans down the road after losing everything.

There is no scientific reason to shut down local mink farms. Zoonotic disease transmission is not uncommon, which is why Oregon's farmers and ranchers take biosecurity so seriously. Indeed, Oregon has had disease outbreaks in the past that can cross species, which is why Oregon has a very progressive approach to disease identification and response that has worked effectively across the livestock sector. In the case of mink, the one farm that had COVID-19 cases was proactive in engaging the state and federal agencies in response. There is no scientific reason to shut down the mink industry.

We are aware that there is growing pressure from extreme animal rights groups to shut down animal agriculture in Oregon, and they see an opportunity with the mink industry. We understand that some in Oregon may not approve of mink farming and choose not to wear fur, as others choose not to consume animal products. Those are valid choices, and we support the right of Oregonians to choose what products to consume. However, the legislature should take very seriously any proposal to ban an entire industry simply because some do not like it. There is no public health or scientific basis to shut down Oregon's mink industry, and there would be very real and irreparable consequences for the families who farm mink as well as those they employ. Most people will be unable to overcome the wholesale loss of their business, and the state will ultimately be held responsible for this taking.

We urge you to VOTE NO on SB 832.

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