

April 5, 2021

Chairman Jeff Golden
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery.
Oregon Senate
Salem, OR

Dear Chair Golden and members of the committee

I served as the elected District Attorney for Clatsop County for 25 years and remain a resident of the city of Astoria. I write to express my whole-hearted support for SB 832, introduced by Senator Floyd Prozanski.

The oldest city in Oregon, Astoria was named for the fur industry baron John Jacob Astor, who founded the American Fur Company. While fur played a big role in our past, it plays virtually no more role in our future than other problematic aspects of frontier society two centuries ago. In fact, the fur industry offers a biohazard that we must deal with decisively and immediately.

I regret say that Clatsop County is one of Oregon's main two counties with mink farms. We had a recent PK.outbreak at a mink farm in our county, but the Oregon Department of Agriculture has been very sparing with details about a viral outbreak in our community that is transmissible to people. I am deeply disappointed in our state's response to thius microbiological crisis.

The people of our county don't want facilities like this threatening to spread COVID-19 in our communities. We don't want it infecting people in nursing homes and we don't want the mink farms causing problems that shut down our restaurants businesses. Like so many other counties, we've struggled with COVID-19 and we don't want more of this. Allowing mink farms to continue to operate threatens us.

I wrote a column about the problems with mink farming in the Daily Astorian in late January and my column generated support from the people in our community.

https://www.dailyastorian.com/opinion/columns/guest-column-the-time-for-mink-farms-has-passed/article_28258b44-5514-11eb-babb-633fddaed2a3.h

Please do pass SB 832 and shut down the small number of operators that pose a very big threat to our community and our state. We failed to heed the warnings about live wildlife markets. We should now heed the warnings about mink farms. They are a genuine threat to society.

Sincerely,

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