

I am writing to voice my support for SB 832 in order to end mink farming in our state. This bill is timely in response to the known risks of COVID-19 and the particular susceptibility of farmed animals, and overwhelmingly mink farms, to zoonotic disease and public health risk, as well as the danger to the animals themselves. These animals suffer under factory conditions here in Oregon by virtue of confining wild animals to small cages, and that result in animal stress behaviors and evident suffering before having their lives cut short. As if the case for all concentrated animal feeding operations, there is additional public health and environmental risk as a result of resource-intensive processes and polluting byproducts. The global fur industry provides a luxury good that is quickly becoming obsolete, and is no longer a viable or ethical investment for the future of our society and the planet. Please end mink farming for good and encourage new and healthful opportunities for Oregon businesses.