



## Representative Bobby Levy

*Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties*

Chair Golden and Committee members, I am here today, again, as a livestock producer asking for your opposition to SB 832.

As a sheep rancher it is deeply concerning that this Committee would consider banning any segment of Oregon's livestock industry and putting dozens of family operations out of business—based on unsubstantiated claims about COVID risk.

Mink are susceptible to zoonotic diseases, just like other animals. On my ranch we adopt biosecurity protocols to ensure our animals are healthy and help prevent disease transmission. I know mink ranchers do the same thing. That's why the one farm with COVID positive mink was able to contain the virus. Biosecurity is nothing new to producers.

I was shocked to see that SB 832 directs the state to take private property without compensation for the farm families who would lose everything. This sets a scary precedent for all livestock producers—SB 832 is a warning to farmers and ranchers that if special interests disagree with your operation, they will simply introduce legislation to ban it.

Make no mistake, SB 832 puts a whole segment of Oregon's livestock industry out of business, based on the false narrative that mink farms endanger the public. State and federal public health agencies have already shown that isn't true. I ask for your opposition to SB 832 because of its dangerous implications to our ag-based economy and because of the devastating effects it will have on our small-business mink farms in Oregon.

Representative Bobby Levy, HD58