



April 5, 2021

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

RE: Opposition to SB 832 – Ban on Mink Production

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Dairy Farmers Association represents the nearly 200 multi-generational dairy farm families working every day to bring fluid milk to market that consumers enjoy in their morning coffee, or in processed forms as cheese, yogurt and ice cream. Our dairy farms range in size and structure across the state and milk is the fourth most valuable agricultural commodity in Oregon.

We strongly oppose SB 832. While this bill would have no immediate impact on dairy farmers, we are very concerned that the mink industry is being targeted and you are considering banning a segment of livestock and putting farmers and their families out of business. This is an extremely dangerous precedent.

Oregon livestock producers have worked closely with the state veterinarian and biosecurity measures for many years. We have had disease outbreaks in the past and have been successful in containing them.

We believe the single case of a COVID outbreak on a mink facility is an excuse by animal rights activists to shut down an entire industry. This farm was proactive and did the right thing by contacting state and federal agencies. There is no scientific reason to shut down the mink industry.

Dairy farmers have faced similar activist challenges with individuals that don't like and don't understand our practices. Oregon has one of the most progressive CAFO programs in the U.S. and Oregon is a national leader in milk quality. High milk quality has a direct correlation with great animal care. Like the mink industry, dairy farmers have a lot of oversight and regulations to comply with.

We are fortunate to live in a country where we vote with our pocketbooks and we make personal decisions on what to want to wear and what we want to consume. We support these individual decisions and freedoms. However, it's very troubling when those that want to harm animal agriculture can bring a bill forth that would close an entire industry.

Don't let misinformation and extremists shut down the mink industry. This is truly a terrifying precedent. We strongly oppose SB 832 and request your No vote.

Thank you,

Tami Kerr, Executive Director
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association