

To the Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery,

I am writing in strong support of SB 832.

Mink farming is detrimental to people, to animals, and to our environment.

As the science has shown, minks are susceptible to zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19; nearly three quarters of new infectious diseases come from zoonotic sources, so mink farms put public health at unnecessary risk.

Additionally, the cruel treatment and killing of sentient beings for unnecessary luxury products is ethically unsupportable.

And, confined mink operations are detrimental to the environment. For example, an independent audit of the Dutch fur industry discovered that mink farming has a high negative impact, including its impact on climate change and its toxic emissions. (Source: <https://pdfslide.us/reader/ff/ce-delft-the-environmental-impact-of-mink-fur-production>)

While phasing out industries that cause harm often meets with resistance, it's essential that we innovate to create industries that reflect our common values of healthy people, a healthy planet, and compassion for all beings. We can get our needs met in ways that don't require exploiting other beings, harming our environment, or putting people at risk.

Please support SB 832.

Thank you,

Marsha Rakestraw