

To the Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery

I am against this bill. Outside of hurting rural Oregonians during a economic down-turn, it opens up a gateway for the government to further control and hinder other ranching business whenever they see fit. The mink are killed humanely and almost 100% of their bodies are used (fur sold, oils regained, bodies used in crabbing industry). The alternative to some of the resources gained from mink can in turn hurt the earth as well (e.g. the amount of synthetic material to formulate a Wal-Mart Jack with fake fur that will end up in a landfill after ~10 years) seems to be overlooked here as well. Also, as a large part of the pelts are sold to other nations (e.g. China) that likely do not regulate mink ranching industry, you are essentially moving this business to a foreign country to then practice the same techniques but likely less humanely.

Furthermore, the idea that the state will just close mink ranching regardless of the "season" that they are in is unreasonable, especially if they are not contributing to "buy out" the business. Currently several ranches are in debt given poor revenue from mink ranching over the past several years (revenue varies from year to year significantly). The idea to close them all right now, and offer the employees to take out more loans is preposterous and unreasonable.

Finally, there are so many other important issues to be of concern to this committee (e.g. climate control, people not being reimbursed for land/homes lost from 2020 wildfires yet). To have the government concerned with mink ranching is unbelievable.

Thank you for your time. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions for myself.

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