

My family has been in the mink industry since 1931, bringing mink to Oregon as an entrepreneurial venture. My grandfather, father, and brother have all celebrated having a business which has been awarded repeatedly within the industry, as well as giving back to our community through various organizations. How are the current rules and regulations in place not already protecting our ranchers and mink? We follow so many OSHA guidelines making sure our mink are able to be raised as safely and humanely as possible. We do this because we understand the importance of health in a farm with so many animals. To determine that we are incapable of doing so without more regulations is insulting. Since we have had one case of spread of possible coronavirus within a ranch in Oregon, we have discovered the mink were able to fight it and keep going. We should be studying these results rather than shutting down ranches. And let's not forget that these farmers have been ranching for years. What will they do with their industry if you close them down? What sort of compensations will be given to those who have dedicated their life to this work? This is a targeted bill that once again hurts small farmers in Oregon. Haven't we closed enough businesses this past year?