

I cannot believe that legislators would ever consider a bill that directs the government to take private property, and then they offer no compensation for the farm families who will lose their livelihoods under SB 832. There is no scientific reason to shut down local mink farms. Zoonotic disease transmission is not uncommon, which is why Oregon's farmers and ranchers take biosecurity so seriously. The one mink farm with positive COVID-19 cases in November 2020, went into quarantine immediately and worked with the State Veterinarian and federal and state agencies to contain the virus. The farm is now clear of the virus, and we should consider this a success as opposed to misrepresenting this incident as a statewide threat.

Not only is the premise of this bill false, but Oregon's mink farms actually are part of a larger cycle of sustainability. Mink consume food waste that would otherwise go to the dump. Their manure is used as a fertilizer for other sectors of agriculture. It's a full cycle.

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