



Animal Defenders International

6100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1150, LOS ANGELES, CA 90048. Tel: +1 323 935 2234 Fax: +1 323 935 9234

www.adiusa.org usa@ad-international.org

***In support of Oregon SB832, to ban mink fur farming.***

*with related interim provisions to prohibit breeding and transport of mink to fur farms in-state;  
to require mink fur farm workers to test negative for COVID-19;  
and to establish a fur farm worker contract tracing program.*

Animal Defenders International (ADI)<sup>1</sup> submits the following in strong support of [SB832](#), to prohibit the operation of mink farms in the state, with related interim provisions to prohibit breeding and transport of mink to Oregon fur farms; to require mink fur farm workers to test negative for COVID-19; and to establish a fur farm worker contract tracing program. We thank the bill sponsor, Senator Prozanski, for his leadership here.

If passed, Oregon would join a growing list of nations,<sup>2</sup> the state of California, and numerous fashion leaders, to address fur industry cruelty and its environmental and public health risks. [Michael Kors and Jimmy Choo debuted a luxurious cruelty-free alternative](#) in 2018, noting that with “*technological advances in fabrications, we now have the ability to create a luxe aesthetic using non-animal fur.*”<sup>3</sup> Other design icons who have committed to innovative fur-free fashion include Armani, Banana Republic, BCBG, Burberry, Burlington Coat Factory, Calvin Klein, Coach, Diane von Furstenberg, DKNY, Gucci, H&M, Hugo Boss, Ralph Lauren, Stella McCartney, Tommy Hilfiger, Versace, and Zara. The fashion world can and is already moving on.

Covid-19 exposed this industry as a serious contagion risk, and the reactionary culling of millions is a tragedy that ignores the real problem. The terrible events this past year have underscored the need and stirred calls worldwide for transformational change in the way humans trade in, consume, impact, and too often abuse nature.

**The farming, trade and consumption of wildlife and wildlife-derived products (for ... fur and other products) have led to biodiversity loss, and emerging diseases, including SARS and COVID-19. ... high pandemic risk consumption patterns (e.g. use of fur from farmed wildlife)<sup>4</sup>**

**There is no future for business as usual ... To successfully address [these challenges] will require tackling the ... drivers of nature loss - ... trade, production and consumption ... and the values and behaviours of society.<sup>5</sup>**

Studies show the fur industry presents high climate and environmental costs, with significant emissions and land use requirements, as well as air and water pollutants emanating from animal waste (nitrogen, phosphorus), incineration (carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides), and tanning processes. Industrial animal farms are “extremely energy intensive ... requir[ing] disproportionately large inputs of fossil fuels.”<sup>6</sup> In 2012, the Advertising Standards Authority banned a fur ad (run by the European Fur Breeders Association), concluding that the ad’s claim that fur is ‘eco-friendly’ was misleading.<sup>7</sup>

**To produce 1 kg of fur requires more than 11 animals. ... Compared with textiles, fur has a higher impact on 17 of 18 environmental themes, including climate change, eutrophication and toxic emissions. In many cases fur scores markedly worse than textiles. ... The climate change impact of 1 kg of mink fur is five times higher than that of the highest-scoring textile ... This impact is not only high compared with other textiles. There are not many raw materials scoring this high per kg on**

climate change; the score of mink fur is similar to that of materials involving high fuel consumption, or solvents for extraction (e.g. precious metals). With an emission factor of about 110 kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per kg fur, the impact on climate change equals a car drive of over 1,250 km. ... For land occupation, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Two environmental impacts affect (local) air quality ... On both of these, fur scores far higher than the other textiles. ... Even in a conservative approach, the environmental impacts of 1 kg fur ... are a factor 2 to 28 times higher than those of common textiles. This is a very clear and consistent result, with indicator categories all pointing in the same direction.<sup>8</sup>

Fur is a cruel industry. ADI investigations reveal nightmarish fur industry standard practices, where animals' miserable lives in cramped, filthy cages meet brutal, abrupt ends, by electrocution (to their anus or genitals), suffocation, broken necks, or worse. We include here for your consideration, links to several ADI reports and videos ~ [A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm report](#)<sup>9</sup> and its [related video](#);<sup>10</sup> [Never Humane: Tragedy of the fox who almost got away](#);<sup>11</sup> and [Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur](#).<sup>12</sup> It's time to end this horrific practice.

We hope this informs your review, and we urge you to support [SB832](#), so Oregon may join other leaders toward cruelty-free fashion innovation that recognizes and responds to the planetary crises of our time.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

All my best regards,

  
Christina Scaringe, General Counsel  
**Animal Defenders International**  
[www.ad-international.org](http://www.ad-international.org)

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<sup>2</sup> Fur Farming bans: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands (moved up from a 2024 effective date due to covid outbreaks on fur farms there), Slovenia, and the UK. Similar measures under consideration: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine. Ban on breeding for fur: Hungary. Ban on mink imports: New Zealand. Ban on mink, fox, chinchilla fur skins imports: India. Fur trade/sales ban: California (US), Sao Paolo (Brazil).

<sup>3</sup> As reported by Georgia Murray in *Is this the Biggest Move in Banning Fur to Date?* yahoo!/sports (January 16, 2018), available at <https://sports.yahoo.com/biggest-move-banning-fur-date-180000485.html>.

<sup>4</sup> IPBES Pandemics Report on Biodiversity and Pandemics, Executive Summary (2020), available at <https://ipbes.net/pandemics>

<sup>5</sup> World Economic Forum's *New Nature Economy Report* series: *The Future of Nature and Business* (2020), available at [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_The\\_Future\\_Of\\_Nature\\_And\\_Business\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Future_Of_Nature_And_Business_2020.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, *Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America, Executive Summary* (2008), available at [https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap\\_exec-summary.pdf](https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2008/pcfap_exec-summary.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> As reported by Mark Sweney in 'Eco-friendly' fur ad banned. *Fur breeders' campaign ruled misleading* by ASA, *The Guardian* (March 2012), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2012/mar/21/eco-friendly-fur-ad-banned>.

<sup>8</sup> Bijleveld, Korteland, Sevenster. *The Environmental impact of mink fur production*. Delft. (January 2011), available at [https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the\\_environmental\\_impact\\_of\\_mink\\_fur\\_production/1131](https://www.cedelft.eu/publicatie/the_environmental_impact_of_mink_fur_production/1131).

<sup>9</sup> *A Lifetime: living and dying on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International Report (2017), available at [https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi\\_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf](https://www.ad-international.org/admin/downloads/adi_f4d655d1c535636ff5fab85010358c7d.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> *Exposed: The tragic short lives of foxes on a fur farm*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4440&ssi=19>.

<sup>11</sup> *Never Humane: tragedy of the fox who almost got away*, Animal Defenders International (2017), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/fur/go.php?id=4455&ssi=19>.

<sup>12</sup> *Bloody Harvest: the real cost of fur*, Animal Defenders International (2010), available at <https://www.ad-international.org/publications/go.php?id=1836>.