

I am submitting comments in strong support of Senate Bill 832 to address the dire public health consequences of mink farms in Oregon.

Mink are susceptible to Covid-19 and have the ability to transmit the virus back to humans, potentially in a form that will render vaccines less effective. The virus may also spillover into nature and be impossible to track and control and could infect our native wild species. The risk is real. Oregon must act responsibly and close these cruel and inhumane facilities.

The small number of mink farms in Oregon are raising mink to sell their pelts to China, because American consumers have finally found their conscience and no longer buy or wear fur. SB 832 will bring mink farming to an end, but equally important, provides help to the mink farmers to transition to new commodities or other lines of work.